

# Florida

Waterfowl Guardians  
Hunting Preserves

Fishing • Hunting  
• Conservation •  
Outdoor Recreation

# WILDLIFE

DECEMBER 1965

*The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen*

25 CENTS

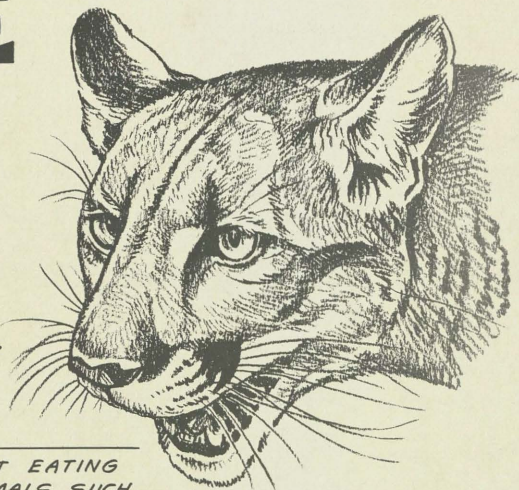




# Florida Wildlife Scrapbook

## LUNCH TIME

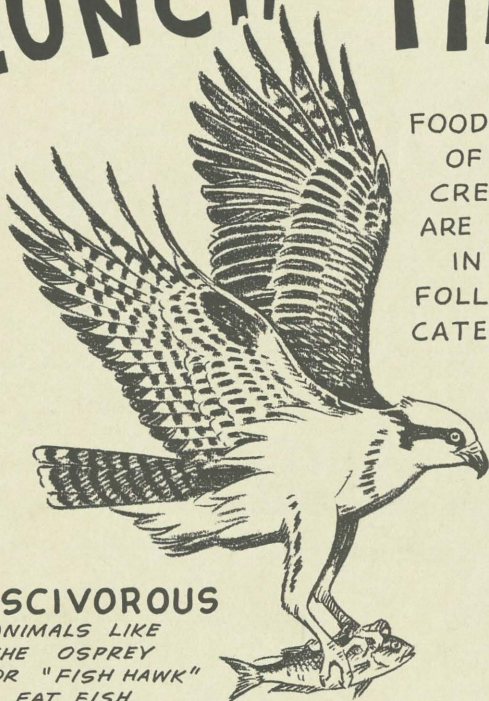
FOOD HABITS  
OF WILD  
CREATURES  
ARE LISTED  
IN THE  
FOLLOWING  
CATEGORIES -



MEAT EATING  
ANIMALS SUCH  
AS THE FLORIDA  
PANTHER ARE CALLED  
**CARNIVOROUS**

### PISCIVOROUS

ANIMALS LIKE  
THE OSPREY  
OR "FISH HAWK"  
EAT FISH

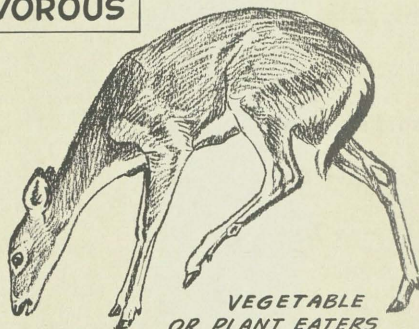


### FRUGIVOROUS

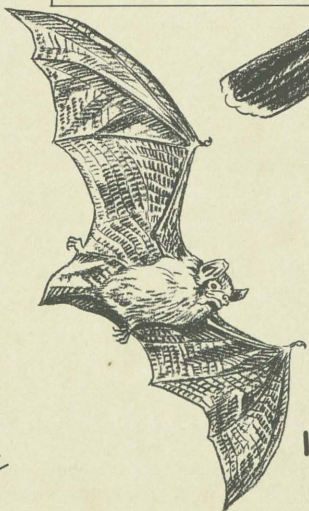
IS THE NAME GIVEN  
TO ANIMALS THAT EAT  
FRUIT - LIKE THE  
CEDAR WAXWING



VEGETABLE  
OR PLANT EATERS  
LIKE THE DEER  
ARE KNOWN AS  
**HERBIVOROUS**  
ANIMALS

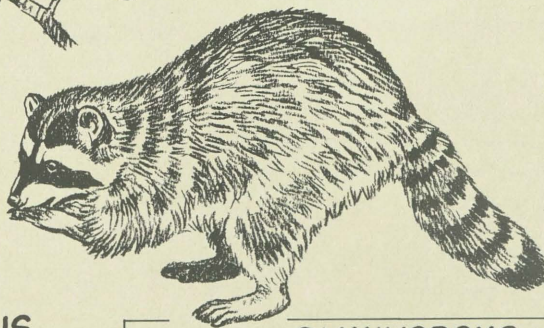


THE BAT  
AND MANY  
KINDS OF BIRDS  
ARE KNOWN AS  
**INSECTIVOROUS**  
ANIMALS



### OMNIVOROUS

ANIMALS EAT ALL KINDS OF FOOD - MEAT,  
VEGETABLE, FRUIT, FISH AND INSECTS ●  
THE RACCOON IS TYPICAL OF THIS GROUP



W.F.



# Florida WILDLIFE

VOL. 19 NO. 7

DECEMBER 1965

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Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission  
State of Florida

★

**BILL HANSEN, EDITOR**

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## The Cover

The colorful Shoveler Duck, a shallow water feeder (puddle duck), can be found throughout Florida's wooded lagoons, fresh water marshes and prairie ponds from late September through mid-April. The female is shown in lower foreground, the male at top.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

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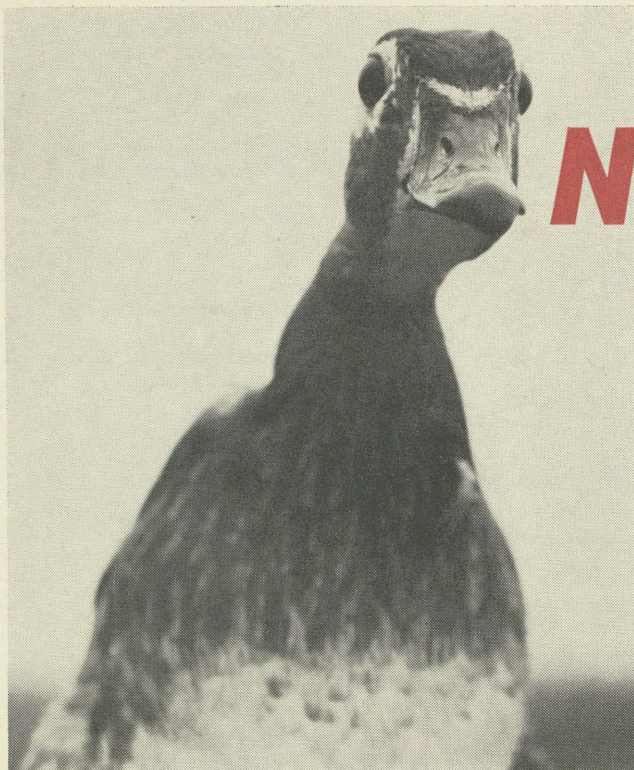
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**Here is a 12-in-1 gift that is perfect for your relatives,  
friends and business associates who like to hunt and fish  
in Florida . . .**





## Marine Game Fish

### Research Laboratory

**S**ELECTION OF Panama City, Florida, as the site for a new Federal marine game fish research laboratory was announced October 8, by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.

Estimated cost of the new facility is approximately \$2 million. A construction start depends on future Congressional appropriations.

Secretary Udall said the new laboratory is expected to make a major contribution to sport fishing in the eastern Gulf of Mexico through studies of migratory species of marine game fishes.

The Panama City laboratory will be the latest in a system of coastal research centers authorized by Congress in 1959 to undertake a national research program on salt water game fish. The goal of this program by Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is to get the answers needed to provide wise conservation and sound management for marine game fish resources.

Marine game fish research laboratories already have been established at Sandy Hook, N. J.; Tiburon, Calif.; and Narragansett, R. I. The fourth and fifth laboratories—the one in Panama City for the eastern Gulf of Mexico and the other in Texas to cover the western Gulf areas—are now in the planning and design stages. Exact location of the Texas laboratory has not been determined.

When completed, the five laboratories will provide for a coordinated, nationwide research program aimed at answering many of the problems affecting the Nation's salt water sport fishing resources, Secretary Udall said. ●

Some snakes have been known to live for one to two years without food by absorbing the fat of their own bodies.

## A True Perspective

# The "Big Picture"

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

**M**ORE AND MORE WE HEAR of the "big picture" in conservation. I am not sure just what the term means or just what the "big picture" is supposed to include. There is an implication that the old codgers raised in the philosophy that resource management is the only true tenet of conservation have been misled—that the time has come when new blood must take over as the true prophets and paint the "big picture."

I took a week to see if I could capture just a wee glimpse of the "big picture" to which some conservation leaders continually refer.

First, by sheer luck I was invited to visit a boys' camp in northern Minnesota. It was brand new and in the shake-down process, but its origin was what interested me. It was no grandiose Federal project directed out of Washington or even the state capitol with blaring fan-fare and miles of red tape. The inspiration had come from the extra-curricular efforts of some of the boys from the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife—Department of the Interior—together with members of the NWF affiliate the Minnesota Wildlife Federation, field men of the Minnesota Conservation Department and a County Park Commissioner. Somehow, somewhere, local park funds plus other contributions had been collected to erect a fine set of buildings on a small backwoods lake. The equipment was government surplus, even to buses to transport the boys on field trips.

Everyone was slightly vague as to where everything came from. I am sure that the sponsors learned their "scrounging" ability in the Army or the CCC camps. It might be called a do-it-yourself BOYS camp. Of most importance was the fact that from 35 to 40 boys were receiving a two-week course in resource management by professionals from state and Federal agencies. Then another group of boys would come in. It was only one small camp for boys up in the big woods, but certainly an asset to the "big picture."

Then, on a national forest I saw a timbered point on a beautiful lake which had been cleared out for a public camp site. Prior to the conversion the area had been a thing of beauty and solitude. Now it was a hodge-podge of trailers, tents and noise. I wondered if these outlanders realized what had been destroyed to fulfill their demands, or whether they cared? Certainly all the aesthetics had been destroyed. It has been repeatedly stated in magazines and news releases that such demands must be met, but to me the reasons are very illusive. Such programs do nothing to enhance resource management. It would seem that any old cow pasture with a few trees could have served the purpose. But we are told that this also must be included in the "big picture."

Continuing, the Canadian prairies grain fields stretched to the horizons. The grey-yellow of rye and barley, the ocean blue of the flax and the Killarney green of wheat. It was a rare and inspiring sight, and all signs pointed to a bountiful harvest.

There was much talk about lots of water but a general scar-

*(Continued on page 32)*



# FISHING



By CHARLES WATERMAN

Many readers offer "expert" opinions with honest hopes of improving Florida's boating and fishing conditions

**A**lmost everybody figures he's an expert on fish conservation.

Although some fishermen speak up before they have much information and, consequently, put out considerable bum dope, I'm not so sure it's a bad thing because it stirs up circulation in otherwise dormant brain cells.

Through the years with this column I've collected a lot of interesting letters from readers. Now I don't agree with all of the opinions expressed but, by and large, anyone who takes the trouble to sit down and write a letter on the subject is more thoughtful than the average. Simply because he took the time and went to the trouble I consider his opinions worthwhile and I read his letter carefully. Almost invariably he has a lot of fishing experience under his belt. Very seldom is he cocky about his knowledge. Almost always, somewhere in the letter, he expresses a desire to learn more about fishing.

Sometimes he asks me a question and I'm flattered that he considers my opinion worth bothering with.

The more I fool with the subject the less likely I am to give pat answers to fish management problems. Those who have read this stuff for some time know that I'm inclined to go strong on the opinions of professional biologists, even though I know they can make mistakes. In fishing a couple of hundred days a year I have found that there are several sides to fish management questions and maybe I'm too wishy-washy.

All of this prelude is a buildup to what I'm gonna' do now.

I'm going to summarize the opinions on some of the commoner fish conservation problems. These ideas come from the letters I get. The people who wrote them don't even know each other. None of these are crackpot notes. Frankly, I don't get very many letters from people violently opposed to any conservation program and I don't think I receive five unreasonable letters a year.

The people who say I'm stupid really think so

and they may have a point so I accept such opinions without rancor.

Anyway I'm not getting on the hook with the following opinion summaries. I don't agree with some of them but they are honest representations of the majority of my correspondents. I'll list them by subjects.

## BOATING

Some agency in authority should designate certain water skiing areas and other waters (especially those adapted to fishing) should be strictly closed to such water sports. Water skiers are dangerous to fishermen, scare the fish, muddy the waters and detract from the relaxing enjoyment of anglers.

Most waters commonly accepted as fishing areas should have a strict speed limit for motor boats. The agency which does the patrolling should also check for dangerous wakes and the agent patrolling should be given enough leeway in his judgement that he could stop a wake puller and reprimand the operator or cite him if necessary.

My correspondents say that boat traffic is definitely derogatory to fishing; that boatacades often drive all fishermen off the rivers and that, what-



A busy boating day on a Florida river. Majority of the correspondents feel more rigid wake control is necessary for the protection of boating fishermen.



ever the fish population may be, they can't be caught as well if there's lots of boat traffic.

I have a minority of opinions from boating enthusiasts pointing out that the fast planing boat doesn't make nearly the wake thrown by a plowing boat and that boaters should be judged by their wakes rather than their speeds.

I have a few letters demanding tests for motor boat operators but not many that want license fees from them.

In fairness to all boaters, let me point out that most of my readers are primarily fishermen rather than skippers.

### LICENSES

The majority of my correspondents want everyone to buy a license and they want no "free" fishing, except for youngsters and oldsters. To my surprise, I have received no comments about the special fish management areas of the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission. I assume this means the system is approved.

### SEASONS

Quite a few letters are in favor of a closed spawning season for black bass despite the opinions of game biologists. This is one field in which most of my customers don't agree with the fish and game people but I must point out that those who are satisfied with present procedures are less likely to write about it.

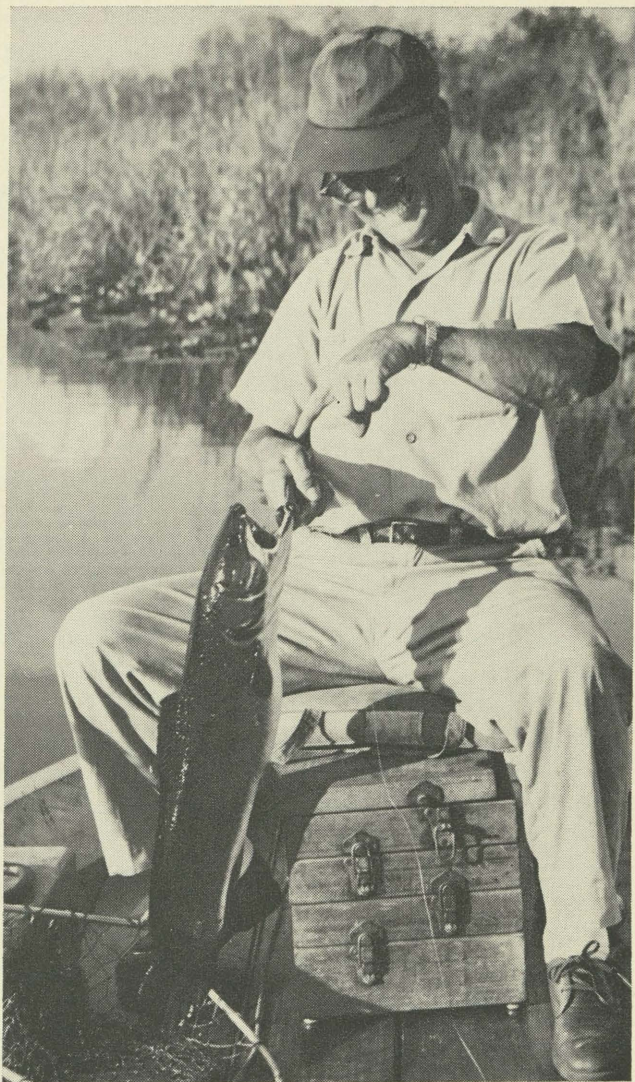
There is much criticism of fishing for spawning bass over spawning beds, especially when the beds can be seen by the fishermen. There is also criticism of wading over beds and the use of motors over large spawning areas. These are the most vehement letters I get and those who criticize fishing over the beds are generally in favor of a closed spawning season. This is definitely against the trend in other states.

### SIZE LIMITS

Disagreement here. Some say the big bass should be returned to the water because they are the brood stock. Others say the small bass should be returned and a size limit set because the small fish are our potential for propagation. I get the impression, however, that few of my correspondents release really big fish.

### METHODS

The letters are generally democratic where method is concerned except that most writers deplore the laziness of modern fishermen and there are many critical comments about the widespread replacement of the conventional baitcasting outfit by the pushbutton.



This big mudfish was fun to catch for Bob Budd, but many Florida Wildlife readers feel there are too many rough fish. However, they generally offer no control methods.

Unlike the situation in fresh water trout country, few artificial lure users seem to be truly scornful of live bait.

People who write about fly fishing seldom say much about fish management.

I get occasional inquiries from folks who want a custom rod of a certain type and want to know where to have it built. Out-of-staters frequently ask if Florida bass are "really different". I answer that the differences are minor.

### HYACINTHS

For a while my mail was mixed on the hyacinth question. Of late, virtually everyone I hear from is against heavy treatment of hyacinths. They tell me that heavy application of chemicals not only destroys too many hyacinths needed as fish cover but that it also kills shoreline plant life, destroys scenery and kills rooted plants that would serve as hiding places for fish. They say hyacinth control

*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from preceding page)

is out of hand and being overdone to the detriment of Florida fishing.

## ROUGH FISH

For the most part, the comments about rough fish are not too vehement. Most correspondents feel rough fish are responsible for a lot of poor fishing but they are not adversely critical of the way the situation is handled. I would say that the readers are a little more strongly anti-rough fish than are the biologists.

## SALT WATER

Many letters indicate that their writers prefer light tackle fishing and, therefore, have deliberately neglected to read or learn anything about salt water. Most of these people think there is no place for their bass-weight tackle in salt water and some of them live next door to the finest of light salt water angling.

YOU CAN'T JUDGE the performance of a species of fish by the actions of one specimen. I have seen a few hooked tarpon (generally considered the jumping fish of all) that didn't jump. I have seen plenty of largemouth bass that didn't jump when hooked.

Fish hooked with large lures tend to jump more than those hooked with small lures or flies (unless they're so small that the plugs weigh them down).

The explanation is that the fish hooked with a small lure is concerned only with escaping the pull while the fish with a big and very tangible plug is trying to throw it and can do that best when outside the water. It frequently works (to my disgust) but it makes fishing more fun.

A FELLOW ASKED me the other day if those "big, ugly Florida bass" are good to eat.

I guess I'm not much of a gourmet because I can't see much difference in the taste of bass from various parts of the country but I will concede that bass from muddy water taste better if skinned before cooking.

THE UNDERHAND, flip cast, that twist-of-the-wrist specialty of the sporting goods store clerk, is a mystery to many fishermen and, to me, it's a little difficult (it's generally performed with a spinning rig). I can throw the plug that way but seldom know where it's going. Accuracy with the underhand flip requires a pretty soft rod, preferably with lots of tip action.

Is the cast of any practical value?

Well, primarily it's a trick throw but I have seen times when it was quite helpful for short tosses under brush.

Any style of casting can get tiresome. If you



A silvery high-jumping tarpon. Generally fish will do more jumping on plugs than on flies.

can change your method from time to time you'll be a lot fresher at the end of a day's fishing.

A LOT OF LURES work at night, of course, but the Jitterbug, especially in black, seems to be by far the most popular after many years as a front runner.

Unlike most surface plugs, the Jitterbug is generally reeled steadily and its provocative gurgles are constant as it comes in. Some of my friends use it exclusively at night but never snap it on during the daytime. They offer no reason for this paradox but they think the steady gurgle is best in the dark and their daytime surface fishing is a series of twitches with long pauses between.

I see no reason why the steady gurgle that arouses a bass at night wouldn't work the same in the daytime but I don't use the Jitterbug much by daylight myself.

SPEAKING OF NIGHT fishing, I remember a noisy evening on a Michigan lake many years ago. There were a lot of plug casters and they were leaving their clicks on to avoid backlashes. It was so dark you couldn't see the other boats nearby but things were really buzzing. ●



# BOATING

A leisurely cruise along the Intracoastal Waterway provides abundant and varied boating experiences

By ELGIN WHITE



EVERY BOATMAN IN Florida at one time or another is just like any other creature . . . he likes to keep up with the Joneses.

In this case, "keeping up with the Joneses" in the boating world means hightailing it over to the famous Intracoastal canal running from Fernandina Beach to the Keys. For December, January, February and March sees more traffic on that famous artery than any other time of the year.

You'd be surprised how many of our Florida skippers have never made a run down the Intracoastal. I mean, really! I guess they figure everyone has been on it, so why go?

I'll tell you why.

It is one of the finest cruises you can make anywhere in the country. Not because there is a lot of traffic on it . . . the traffic is un-noticeable, really . . . but there are sights to see and things to do on the Intracoastal you can't find anywhere else.

Take a look at it for a minute.

Florida has many storied waterways, ranging from the littlest creek to the broad expanses of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, but the Intracoastal along the east coast tops 'em all.

From the Marine Welcome Station at Fernandina

Beach to the myriad of docks, marinas, wharfs and piers in the golden glitter of Fort Lauderdale and Miami, varied forms of Floridiana are witnessed in the ever-changing scene that characterizes this part of the world.

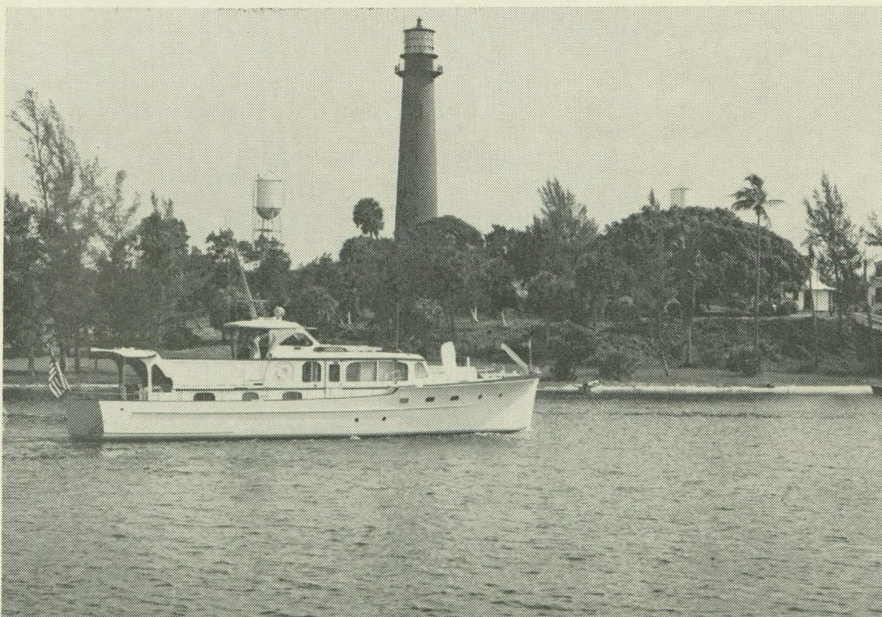
Let's take a brief narrative trip from Fernandina to Miami to refresh some memories among many boatmen, and stir some longings among the others who haven't ventured along this route.

Starting from Fernandina, the run to Mayport and the entrance of the famous St. Johns River offers historical attractions few people realize are there for the boating public.

Right at Fernandina itself is famous Fort Clinch, the pre-Civil War structure that was occupied by both the Confederate and Union armies during the war, but never fired a cannon ball. The Reds moved out in March, 1862, when a Union fleet approached, figuring Fernandina was undefendable from both land and sea, and the Union forces moved in.

Just down the Intracoastal from Fort Clinch and Fernandina is the old Kingsley Plantation on Fort George Island. This was the home of Zephaniah Kingsley, who built the old plantation with accompanying slave quarters back in 1817 when slave

*(Continued on next page)*



Intracoastal Waterway travellers are always intrigued by the old lighthouse at Jupiter, just north of Palm Beach. The entire waterway is well stocked with marinas, launching ramps, and all of the required cruising accommodations.



*(Continued from preceding page)*

trading was as big a business as rustling Spanish galleons.

The Intracoastal from Jacksonville Beach to St. Augustine is most picturesque and quite unusual when you ride down it at low tide. All along the route boat houses and docks reach out into the waterway like a passel of centipedes, and at low tide they are all high and dry with a six-foot tidal fluctuation.

St. Augustine's city docks are right on the waterway and are situated within easy walking distance of most of that famous city's historical attractions. From St. Augustine to Daytona you make a scenic run through saw-grass looking country with plenty of marinas, fish camps and stopping points along the entire route. World famous Marineland is located mid-way between St. Augustine and Daytona and is a "must" stop for boatmen.

Daytona Beach is a handy spot, too, should you encounter difficulty with your boat or motor, as there are several top repair yards right on the Halifax River, which is part of the Intracoastal at this point.

The next point of interest is the Cocoa Beach area where the Intracoastal takes on the Indian River. On the port side, moving south, is of course the massive expanse of Merritt Island and the space business. If you're lucky by the time you reach Cocoa, they'll be blasting one loose from the pad on the Cape and you can witness this exciting event right from your poop deck.

From the Cocoa Beach-Melbourne area the Intracoastal meanders through scenic island spots right in the Indian River, and as the canal nears Palm Beach and Jupiter you can see the vast change in scenery. The banks along the canal deepen with lush greenery and tropic cocoanut and royal palm trees. Huge mansions and country homes dot the landscape right on into Fort Lauderdale and Miami.

A trip down the Intracoastal Waterway is probably one of the easiest boating trips that can be made in America. Beautifully marked, well stocked with convenient marinas, repair yards, motels, restaurants, scenic attractions, historic sites, launching ramps and overnight camping areas, the Intracoastal waterway in Florida is truly one of America's most modern aqua highways.

But don't just get on it and run as fast as you can go from one place to another. Stop and see all the many points of interest. Stay overnight at various places where tourist attractions beckon. After all, if you're boating you're not in a hurry anyhow!

ANY NIGHT NOW, although most of us in Florida won't admit it, especially in northern Florida, the

first freeze of the season might nip at a few heels in our popular boating state.

When we get that first little warning that there will be some chilly nights ahead, Florida boaters should take some necessary cold weather precautions. This is especially aimed at our North Florida crewmen.

If you have left your craft at mooring or on the trailer since Labor Day, with the idea of taking a few cruises and runs when the weather is suitable during the hard winter "core" months of December, January and February, it's wise to make sure the storage battery is fully charged. A battery that is almost or fully discharged can easily freeze with consequent termination of useful life.

After a long season of service there may be some water in the motor's lower unit gearcase. If you have not already drained and replaced the lower-unit lubricant, do it before the cold weather hits. In addition to rusting vital moving parts, any water in a lower unit can freeze at night and lock the shift mechanism or gears, depending on its level. Damage may occur when an ice-locked motor is started.

If your boat has a marine speedometer, look in the instruction sheet that came with it or check it with your dealer. Some types require that water be bled from the stabilizer unit before cold weather strikes.

In case you're wondering, there's no need to worry about water freezing in the outboard's cooling system. When the motor stops, gravity causes most of the water to drain down and out. Tilt the motor so that remaining water can run out of the pump and lines.



It is easy to camp, picnic, or try your fishing skill along the Halifax River near Daytona Beach.





Beautiful Bahia Mar, at Fort Lauderdale, is but one of many marinas along Florida's famous Intracoastal Waterway offering touring boatmen every conceivable facility.

LOTS OF PEOPLE laugh at the idea of having a tachometer attached to the dash of their boat . . . or car for that matter.

'Tain't no laughing matter. There have been multitudinous complaints in the past two-three years about the increasing gluttony of outboard motors, and of stern drives as well.

Bob Brewster of Mercury Motors advises that using a tachometer will help eliminate this problem in a large measure, simply because with modern outboards, it is most difficult to "listen" for accurate throttle settings.

With the new motors being so smooth-running it is hard to judge motor speed by sound, vibration and boat speed. And the fellow who cruises with that "wide open" throttle often runs out of fuel surprisingly soon.

So, the only accurate way to set the throttle for a recommended cruising speed is with the aid of a tachometer.

A good "tach" can increase range and pay for itself in fuel saving. Without one, you may cruise at 4300 r.p.m. one day and at 4700 r.p.m. the next, and any estimate you make of cruising speed will be unreliable.

With a tachometer, you can get the same cruising r.p.m. consistently, and your mileage observations will begin to be usefully accurate.

Too, it pays to study propellers before making any long trip. You may be happy with a prop of fifteen-inch pitch for general use, but on a long cruise with a light load, a prop of seventeen-inch pitch may push the boat all right without overloading the motor.

If the prop turns at 2500 r.p.m., the seventeen-inch prop will theoretically push the boat forward two inches more per revolution or 5000 more inches per minute. That's 300,000 inches per hour or more than half a mile farther per hour!

So you see, like football, boating is also a matter of inches!

Admittedly this figuring neglects propeller slip. Yet it does show the very appreciable gain in cruising range to be realized from careful propeller selection.

---

IF YOU HAVE KIDS in school who are looking for specific themes to write . . . your family boat might provide the answer.

On one of our balmy winter weekends, trailer your boat to any one of Florida's busy seaports where you can find ample subject material and literally bring to life the pages from a geography or social science textbook.

In our rather sizeable Florida ports, particularly Jacksonville, Miami, Tampa, Pensacola and Port Everglades, children can see ships of many nations as they load and unload a variety of merchandise. A huge freighter, flying a foreign flag, with crewmen working on deck, can mean much more than a picture in a book to young minds.

That's just the beginning. In any port can be seen domestic waterborne commerce of many kinds, such as fishing vessels, tugs, barges, and tankers. The kids can get a real picture of how ships bring us our everyday needs. It may also be possible to cruise past at least a few sites of historical importance, as mentioned earlier in this column.

Most of our harbors offer sheltered waters so there's no need to be concerned about the ability of a modern outboard boat to operate safely. However, there are a few things to bear in mind:

Give ample leeway to moving freighters and working tugs. Remember, you're just a spectator.

Be cautious when cruising past the ends of docks. Either pass by them a hundred feet or so seaward, or very slowly. You never know what's going to be coming out between those docks.

Keep a weather eye out for floating debris and driftwood which abounds in most ports.

In general, remain a prudent distance from Navy craft and military installations.

And above all . . . have plenty of gas aboard. Docks servicing steamships are not set up to cater to the needs of small craft. ●



Several common factors make duck and dove hunting prime sport for the shotgunner. In addition to both being classified as migratory game birds, they will decoy in, and prove tricky and swift as targets

# MAKE MINE MIGRATORY

By EDMUND McLAURIN

UNDER DISCUSSION during the morning coffee break was the sport of gunning. One man made a strong case for quail hunting over a couple of good dogs. A second extolled the joy of shooting pheasants on corn-studded Nebraska acreage in nippy weather.

"Make mine migratory!" succinctly commented a third member of the group, after politely listening.

"How's that?" the pheasant hunter asked inquiringly, his puzzlement obvious in his voice.

"Doves and waterfowl," was the equally concise answer.

"I'll go along with that!" I said. . . . You probably will, too, if you have long hunted doves and ducks.

Dove and waterfowl shooting have a number of points in common: The respective targets have migratory bird classification and are subject to certain Federal regulations as well as local law. . . . Both doves and ducks can be decoyed with lifelike sets, especially decoys of 3-D type. . . . The two shooting sports require fairly close patterning guns. . . . Targets are apt to be fast or tricky. . . .

The sports also call for good marksmanship.

Photo By Gene Smith







Photo By Bob Brantly

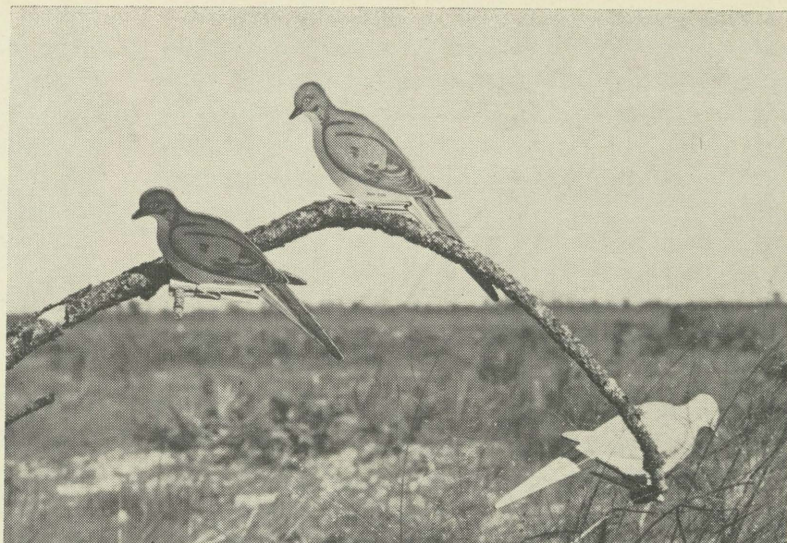


Photo By Gene Smith

Looking for a place to hunt doves? Commission managed public dove hunting fields, left, are open in seven counties during the second and third phases of the dove hunting season. Special dove field permits are required. Doves, like ducks, can be decoyed, right, and life-like commercial ready-made decoys are generally available in sporting goods stores.

Doves or ducks, to hit flying targets consistently you have to do more than just accurately estimate required lead. You must swing your gun muzzle along with and then ahead of your target, pull the trigger during the swing and maintain smooth follow-through motion of the activated swing. More doves and ducks are missed by under-leading (caused by slowed or stopped gun-swing after moment of firing) than by shooting too far ahead.

The mourning dove is the only game bird to be found in at least 48 of the fifty states, but not all allow hunting of the species. In some states, the mourning dove is classified as "a songbird."

Even in Florida, where the dove is one of the most popular of hunted game bird species, many persons harbor protective feeling and encourage doves to congregate and accept backyard handouts—little realizing that approximately 70% of the annual dove crop is going to die of natural causes, fed or hunted or not, and that scattered grain on home premises constitutes an open invitation to also partake of expensively seeded lawns and gardens! Normally doves seek rural growing millet, corn, pokeberry and various weed seeds.

Surprisingly, in those states where protection of the species has been zealously enforced, the mourning dove has shown *no* increase, whereas in the open-to-hunting states there has been a gradual increase in dove populations, statistics show. Arizona claims it has the most doves, and Imperial Valley, California, is a top contender.

To hit fast flying doves you must swing your gun muzzle along with, then ahead of your target, pulling the trigger during the swing, maintaining smooth follow through. Failure to follow through will account for many misses.

While many dove populations of Southern states are year around residents of their birthplaces, others yield to migratory urge and fly as far south as Mexico when cold weather comes to northern states. It is the temporary influx of these south-bound migratory flocks that makes late Fall dove hunting both promising and exciting.

The mourning dove undoubtedly rightly gets its name from its melancholy *coo-aah-coo, cooo, cooo* call, uttered when lonely or courting, but chagrined hunters who find the bird a hard target to hit are the true mourners! One dove for every five shots is average. Many dove hunters shoot up a full box of shells without bagging a bird, especially on days when the gray ghosts come across fields and to waterholes with the speed of an existing wind added to smartly executed wing maneuvers.

Whatever the final results, dove shooting is a relatively easy sport to enjoy. As a rule, you won't have to go far to find a place to hunt.

Game Commission-managed public dove hunting fields in seven Florida counties—Polk, Charlotte, Suwannee, Jackson, Gadsden, Orange and Seminole counties, during the second and third seasons—help solve the problem of where to hunt. Special dove field permits, available for purchase at the fields or at any of the five Commission regional offices, are required.

Besides valid hunting license, and special daily permit where shooting is over a Game Commission-managed public dove hunting field, hunters must carry shotguns capable of no more than three shots of sustained fire. Those models designed to

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accept more than three shells must have a magazine plug, to create three shell limit capacity (one in the chamber and two in the loading tube). The three shot limit is imposed Federal law, as is prohibition of the use of rifles for taking migratory birds.

Florida observes a three-phase dove season this year: October 2-November 7; November 20-December 5; and December 18-January 3. The last two are certain to embrace some of the migratory flights from northern climes.

Shooting is legal from 12:00 Noon until sunset of each open day. Daily bag limit is 12 birds. Further, after the first open day of each of the three calendar periods, a *possession* limit not to exceed two days' legal limit kill of birds must be observed. Otherwise, you're in trouble!

After being shot at a few times, most doves get wary and flare sharply when they detect the hunter. For distant passing birds, and high flyers, you'll shoot most effectively with a gun bored Full Choke or no more open than Modified. Where shots are close to gun, less choke is desirable. A pump or autoloader with a choke control muzzle attachment is ideal. Best size shot to use is No. 7½.

Once on location, you make a leisurely walk into a nearby field and take a "stand" along a fence-row or in a clump of partially concealing dog fennel. If you wear camouflage clothing and cap you can crouch down almost anywhere; so long as you remain motionless until ready to shoot, approaching birds are not apt to spot you as a waiting threat, then flare and by-pass you.

A folding camp stool and Thermos bottle are frequently seen accessories, and contribute to an afternoon's hunting pleasure.

New this season is the Black Sheep brand "Camp Cool" model hunting stool, a folding seat with an underslung insulated bag that can be filled with ice cubes and canned drinks, with the ice cubes also providing refrigeration for bagged birds. (Take the expression literally! Drop retrieved birds in a plastic bag placed among the cold drinks and ice).

Field experiments have proven beyond all doubt that doves, like ducks, can be decoyed.

First-tried dove decoys were rather crude improvisations, but the current crop of commercial ready-mades look so much like live birds that some hunters can be fooled. Last season one fellow set a row of lifelike decoys on a barbed-wire fence and hid in an overlooking blind. A slight wind gave the decoys restlessness. During the few moments when the hunter's eyes were wandering, a dove flew in and alighted among the decoys. Not until the hunter stood up and frightened the real bird into flight was he sure which figure was his target!

At times, a blown type of caller will work, es-



For waterfowl hunting, portable blinds made from natural vegetation permits decoy sets to be made almost anywhere. Motors and shiny boat parts should always be well hooded.

pecially when used in combination with decoys. Required notes are few and simple, easily mastered.

Decoys and callers seem to work best when birds are on the move. During the birds' siesta period around noon they may be ineffective, unless there are restless, lonely birds perched in area trees. Best bet of mid-day is to set out your decoys, call—and hope. Other hunters may put birds on the move, to your advantage.

Federal law specifically prohibits the taking of doves through the use of live decoys, and/or by deliberate baiting of a field or area with grain or salt, with the objective of attracting birds within range of waiting gun.

However, it is legal to shoot birds attracted by shocked grain, unharvested crops and grain scattered as a result of normal agricultural or dairy operations.

If you can take ready-gun station close to a field of standing or freshly harvested grain, or along a flyway to or from a watering hole, you're in business. If there are any birds around, some are sure to seek the available food or afternoon drink.

Feather picking a limit of doves can be a time-consuming job. Readers can be indebted to Ellis Simon, of Kinston, North Carolina, for a practical suggestion, and one that works.

He says, "There is an easy way to dress doves: . . . First, take a pair of shears and cut off tail feathers, head and wings close to body. Next, take the doves to an outside spigot and turn on the



water enough for a steady stream. With water running over a held bird, massage the dove with your hands. The feathers and pin feathers will come off easily . . . . To keep feathers from getting all over the yard, clean the birds above a cardboard box that has some holes in the bottom for the water to run out. When you have finished cleaning your kill, contents are ready for the garbage can."

There are several ways to cook doves tastily; their eating can be as enjoyable as their hunting. The birds taste best when carefully prepared—not just tossed into a hot frying pan.

Begin by putting a generous portion of butter in a deep iron skillet that has a tight fitting lid. Next, roll the birds in a mixture of flour, salt and pepper, and put them in the skillet when the butter is quite hot. Brown the birds, using even heat to keep the butter from burning. When all birds are well browned, add half a cup of water, cover the skillet tightly and turn the heat quite low. Let the covered skillet's contents simmer for about an hour, or until the meat can be easily separated from the bones.

An optional, quicker method is to deep fry birds

first dipped in evaporated milk, salted and peppered and rolled in flour or cornflakes. Drop the birds into the boiling fat (preferably a tasteless vegetable compound) and cook until they are well browned.

Roast wild duck also is good eating, and the prospect intriguing, but duck dinners don't come easy—not if you have to supply the ducks fresh off their flyways. Most times you'll work for the birds you put on the table.

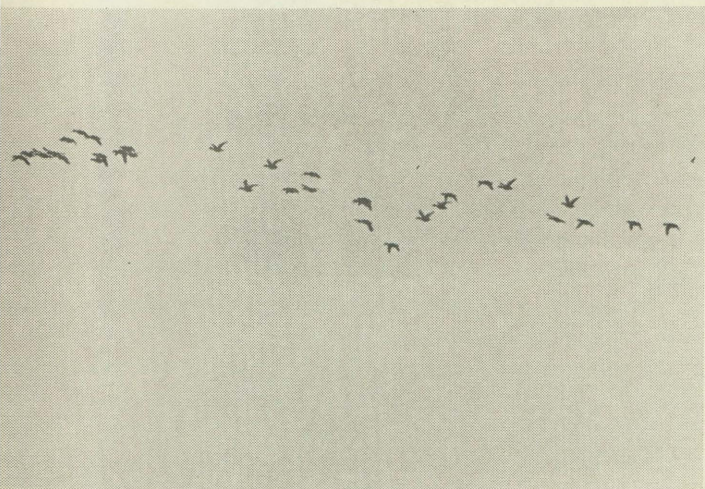
But aside from the good eating that can follow a successful hunt, duck hunting is exciting sport. When action develops, it is apt to be of the type that remains vivid and sweet in memory.

Waterfowl prospects for this season are brighter, compared to conditions of prior seasons. Except in certain critical areas affected by abnormal weather conditions, natural environment for nesting waterfowl has been the best since 1960. This season could be a good one.

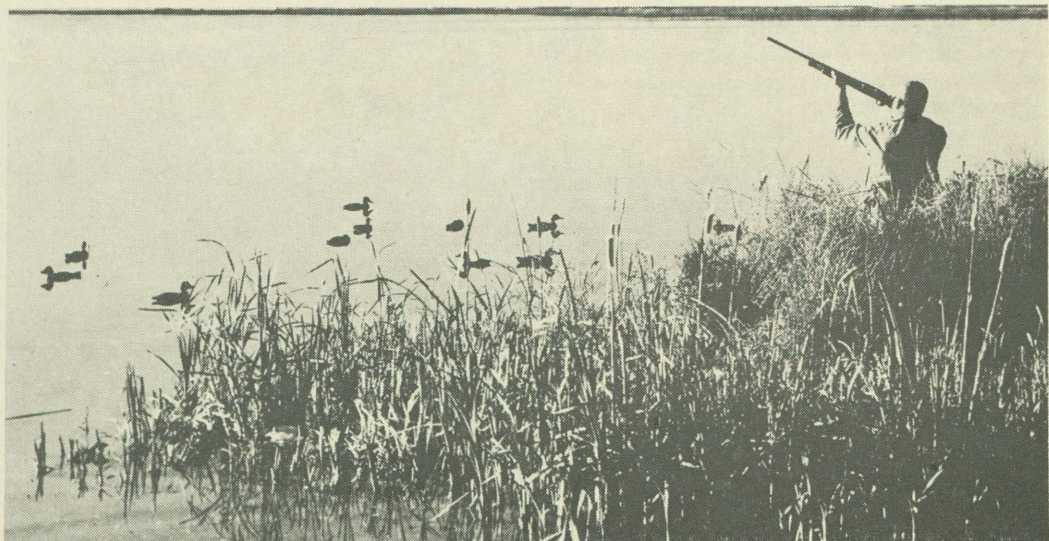
Florida, as one of the states along the Atlantic flyway, will observe a split waterfowl season. The first half is designated from 12:00 Noon, November 24 through December 6; the second half of the split season will open at sunrise December 18 and close at sunset January 9. Except for the November 24 opening day (when shooting does not become legal until 12:00 Noon), daily shooting hours will be from sunrise to sunset.

If you are 16 years of age or older, you must have a Federal duck stamp (sold by all main facility Post Offices and some branches), in addition to your regular resident or non-resident hunting license. When purchasing your 1965 duck stamp, be sure to ask for a copy of the Federal regulations applying to the taking of waterfowl. Read these provisions carefully and keep a copy with you when you hunt, to avoid personal infractions.

Also obtain, read and carry a copy of the bag  
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Duck hunting is an exciting sport, and when action develops it is apt to be of the type that remains vivid in memory. Shooting over close-set decoys from a natural blind often requires the least effort for duck hunters, and promises the most.





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limits and/or special regulations applying solely to Florida waterfowl hunting. Any regional office of the Game Commission will gladly furnish a copy of current regulations, or you can look up bag limits and other Florida waterfowl hunting information on Page 21 of the November 1965 issue of **FLORIDA WILDLIFE**.

Admittedly, bag limits on mallards and canvasbacks are not overly generous; not more than two of each named species may be taken daily. On that score, many American duck hunters are vexed; they simply cannot see any reason for radically reduced bag limits on waterfowl that eventually face relatively uncontrolled shooting in Mexico and in other countries of the southward migratory trek. The feeling is that American hunters are doing the necessary, often difficult conservation work, and are paying well for short seasons of sport, but that hunters in other countries are getting the ducks!

True or not, state game commissions cannot be blamed; they have to accept the annual rulings of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the final authority, although they do try to make practical recommendations to that agency. . . .

Among duck guns, the old, familiar double

barrel 12 gauge is by far the simplest and most dependable. It can be reloaded faster than a pump-action or autoloader, seems to settle down faster for second shots than repeaters and does not have so many mechanical parts to disassemble if anything goes wrong. The single-barrel repeaters, on the other hand, give more precise, single-plane pointing and the advantage of a quick third shot for finishing off cripples.

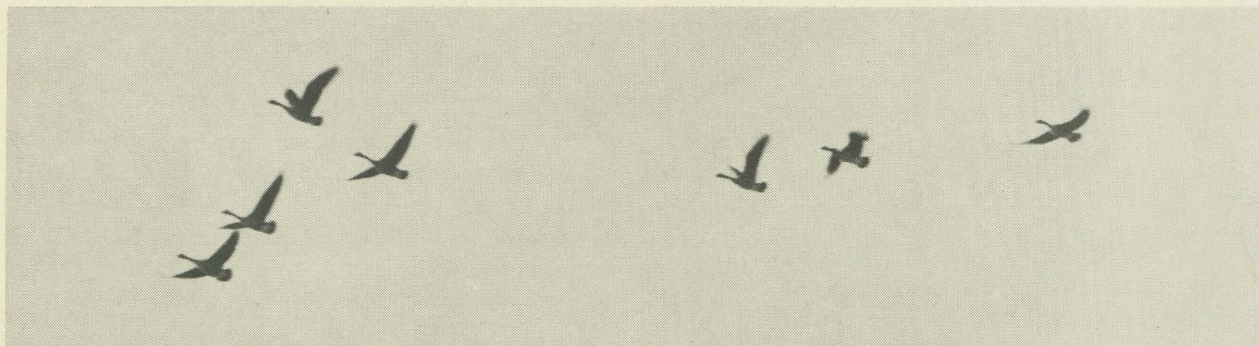
An over-and-under can be slow and awkward to reload in a small, movement-restricting blind, but is good otherwise.

Magnums come into their own for shooting of far passing ducks and geese from a blind. The long barrels usually found on guns of the Magnum class are an aid to accurate gun pointing at long ranges, and fired shells release larger charges of shot. Under other shooting conditions, Magnums can be both heavy in the hand and unnecessarily powerful of load.

Pumps and autoloaders should have attached choke control devices, or be bored at least Modified. Doubles can advantageously have Modified or Improved Modified choke boring in the right barrel and Full Choke for the left, to take care of both close and long shots.

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Photo By Bill Hansen

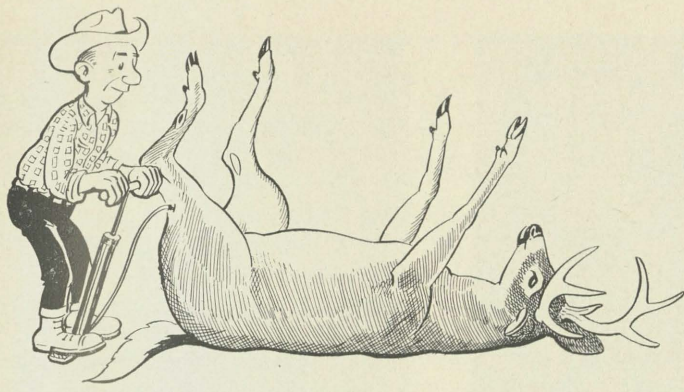


The average waterfowler fires eight shells for every bird bagged. Most of the missing can be blamed on shooting before targets are within recommended range, such as the 40 yards for Canada geese. The use of proper shot size is another important factor.

When waterfowl are restless, they are apt to come winging by before you can conceal the boat and motor out of sight.







# Pneumatic Deer Peeling

By DR. H. R. WILBER

**R**ETURNING TO CAMP one day I saw a dead deer lying flat on its back, legs outstretched, torso taut; apparently the result of about four days of bloating. Several other hunters were standing around.

"Looks like a blown deer," I said learnedly, wondering what it was doing in camp.

"It is," somebody answered. "Ray blew it."

I said about all I could say. I said, "Huh?"

"Yeah, Ray blew it up with his mouth," I was told. "Now he's gonna' skin it."

And that's what Ray Pell, cracker deer hunter of long experience, did. He skinned it quickly and easily without aid of a knife except for circling and splitting the leg skin. This was at the Eric Watson camp in the Samsula area near Daytona Beach where a bunch of old timers learned they didn't know all there was to know about deer hunting after all.

The way Pell took the skin off it came free like a great white shawl; no hair, no cuts, no blood smear—like the skin of a squirrel taken off properly. If you're used to deer skins that appear to have been whittled off with dull cane knives, you should see one taken off pneumatically the way Ray does it.

At that camp, we've all been taught but I won't say we've learned. Of course, we've got Ray but he may not be handy the next time you want to peel a whitetail so I'll divulge his method. At the same time, I think such a demonstration would bring the house down at any sportsman's club meeting.

First you kill the buck and then:

Lay out the fresh buck and start the skinning operation (after cutting the throat if you wish) by pinching up a little fold of hide above the ham joint inside a leg (all legs on badly shot-up deer); then make a three-quarter inch cut upward through the hide producing a wedge cut. Insert a green switch or wire through the incision in an area the size of your hand. Now comes the magic part! Take a deep breath, place your mouth to the cut and blow. Blow harder (it's good for your lungs) and force air on up under the hide.

Hold the slit shut and roll massage the trapped air on up over the ham. Blow some more and force air on toward and over the torso. A helper can hold any shot-produced skin vents that might allow air to escape while you're blowing. Ray's face gets a bit red from blowing but the results are worth the

effort. When the hide is taut all over, like a big bladder, you're through.

Now hang the ballooned deer as usual for dressing. (It won't do any good to weigh him at this stage, even though his distended condition may give you the momentary feeling you have a world record).

Ring and split the hide on each leg; the air will stay in. Then free the tail and simply peel the hide down using only the edge of your hand to force it off.

Immediately, onlookers will note that the blowing could be done by use of a bicycle pump. You could use a needle such as it used in inflating modern footballs or basketballs and just punch the needle through the pinched-up hide (not into meat). Then pump. We haven't tried this pump business as, after all, we've got Ray. However, I'm sure it will work fine.

To get just a little more technical, we'll figure out what happens anatomically. The skin, you know is made up of two layers, epidermis and dermis, the latter being the true casing for the body. Below the dermis and outside the muscles are two more layers known as fascia. There's a superficial fascia composed of areolar tissue and a deep fascia which is glistening muscular encasement. Areolar tissue is so named because it is composed of open spaces bounded by fibrous and elastic tissue and interspersed with fat. The deep fascia is composed almost in entirety of non-elastic fibrous tissue.

Now the reason this procedure of skinning is possible is that the introduced air fills the collapsed openings in the superficial fascia, loosening it from the dermis or inner layer of skin and the deep fascia. In the carcass area there is little or no real fibrous attachment between skin and muscle sheath.

There is one area around the base of the ribs which has a broad tendonous attachment between a superficial muscle and the skin and that's the only difficult spot found in the skinning process. A brisk whack with the hand frees it, providing tension is placed on the skin.

That one connection between muscle and skin enables the animal to shake his skin to drive off insects.

Once the skin is loosened or removed the evisceration is accomplished with ease. ●





Photo By Wallace Hughes

**GAME FARM "WILD" TURKEY HEN.** She is more streamlined than the fully domestic strain, but her wattling is still too extensive; the legs and neck are shorter than a pure wild hen. The tail tips are sometimes brown, like a real wild turkey, but most often lighter, like this one. The game farm turkey usually is wild enough to be hard to catch by hand, but never smart enough to raise a brood in the wild.

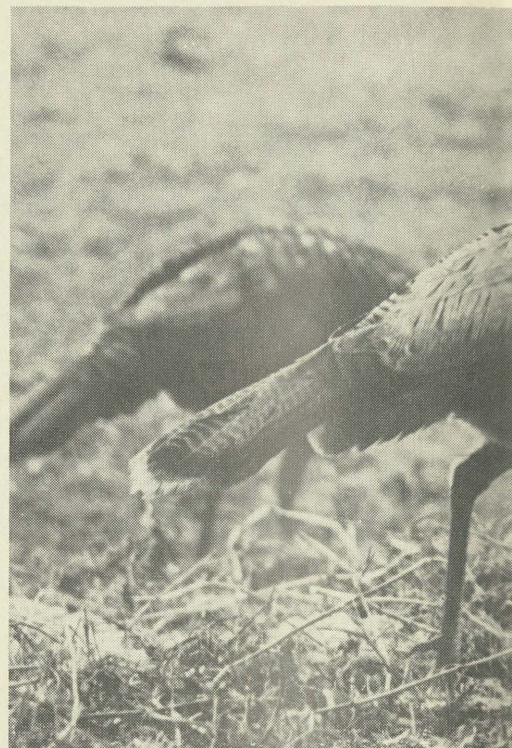


Photo By Lovett Williams

**FLORIDA "WILD" TURKEY HEN.** The necks and legs are long, with a streamlined body. There are more than a dozen ways to distinguish her from a game farm turkey. The most important difference is that she can easily survive in the wild, and raise up to 12 young turkeys a year.

## How Not To Help

**W**OULD YOU LIKE TO HELP eradicate the wild turkey? Here's a good way to start: buy up all of the game farm, pen-reared "wild" turkeys you can and turn them loose in the woods where the wild turkeys are not doing quite as well as you would like. Depending upon the source of your store-bought turkeys, the results will range somewhere between bad and disastrous. Why? Because nobody raises *real wild* turkeys in pens to sell, no matter what they claim. That's because wild turkeys don't lose their wildness when hatched in captivity (incubator or otherwise)—they remain too wild to raise without constant attention and nobody in the game farm business has found a way to overcome this inbred wildness except by breeding it out. What you *can* buy from game farmers is a turkey which cannot produce a population of wild turkeys in the woods, even if some of them do look quite a bit like wild turkeys. They all contain a certain amount of domestic inheritance.

There's nothing wrong with the domestic turkey, in fact, it is probably the New World's most impor-

tant contribution to animal husbandry. But adaptation to close confinement calls for a bird relatively immune to common diseases, and one that can settle into the uncomplicated way of life in captivity with a minimum of instincts left over from generations of life in the wild. Who wants to raise turkeys that fly off when you come to feed them? It was long ago in central Mexico that the Indians produced a turkey which was content to be cared for by people and could live in captivity with the greatest of ease. Hundreds of years in confinement with other birds have exposed the domestic turkey to the common poultry diseases and this has produced a strain of turkey which can withstand most common poultry ailments, or can be vaccinated against them in some cases. But the wild turkey does not have this immunity. Dense natural populations of wild turkeys have been wiped out by blackhead and fowl pox (sore-head) epizootics (epidemics) which were introduced to them by releases of game farms turkeys which had enough immunity to carry the diseases, or, had been vac-



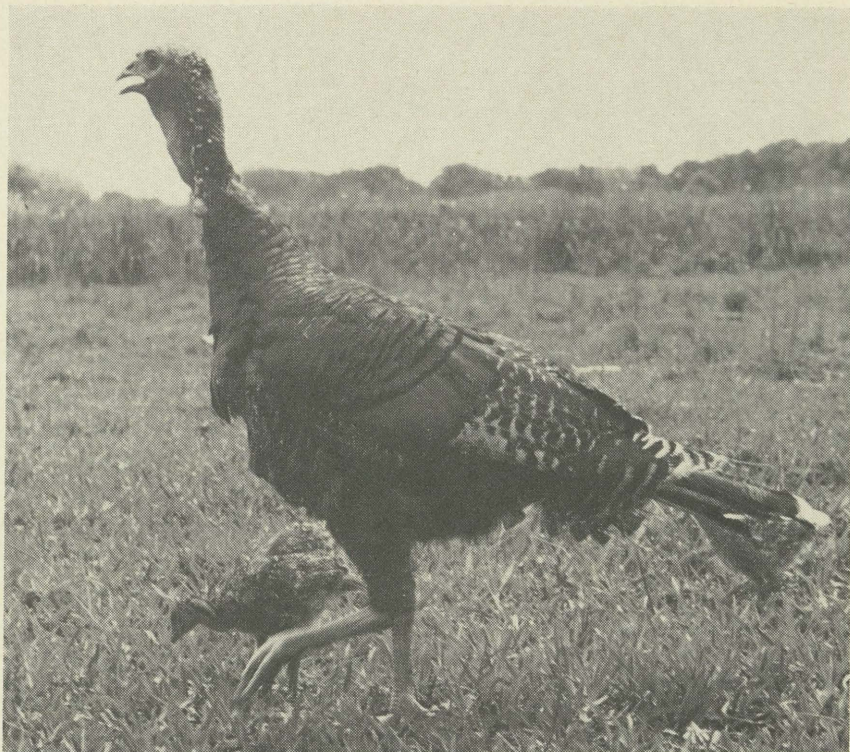


Photo By Tom Wayman

By **LOVETT WILLIAMS**

Game Management Division

**DOMESTIC "BRONZE" TURKEY HEN.** Legs and neck are short and chunky, the head is large, and the wattling under the throat is more like a gobbler than a wild hen. Considered stupid, they cannot live much more than a few days in the wild. Best way to distinguish a domestic turkey is by the white — instead of brown — tip on the tail. To release domestic turkeys in the wild is a waste of good meat.

# The Wild Turkey

minated against one of them (fowl pox). And there are other diseases which are probably just as bad but do not come to our attention as often because of their tendency to infect and kill only small poults which are not as easily noticed and decompose faster than grown turkeys. Some other common diseases reduce egg fertility.

But far more ominous than the ravages of disease is the possible physical and mental deterioration and eventual disappearance of the true wild turkey through genetic contamination with inferior game farm stock. Biologists have not been able to prove that game farm turkeys ever survive in the wild long enough to cross with wild stock, but it is certainly possible and even probable when game farm hens are released during the spring. Let's hope that so few game farm turkeys are released that the answer to this question will never be apparent.

There is only one source of satisfactory wild turkeys for stocking and that is by trapping them in the wild. The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission traps approximately 500 wild turkeys each

winter and releases them in proper sex and age composition flocks in suitable habitat where there are no turkeys, or, in some cases, on wildlife management areas to improve the prospects for the hunter.

The question is often asked "If game farm turkeys are no good, where can I buy some wild-trapped turkeys?" The answer is "you can't," because nobody sells them. Regulations in force now in Florida provide for individuals to legally sell real, wild-living turkeys from their properties, under certain conditions, but so far there have been no takers.

When turkeys are in trouble, there is always a reason. Sometimes the woods are too thick and need to be burned under controlled conditions; sometimes excessively wet weather during early spring reduces poult survival, but whatever the reasons for the occasional dips in turkey populations, releasing game farm turkeys is never the remedy. It's like drinking whiskey for rattlesnake bite. ●





**More than half of the North American  
waterfowl population originates  
in three western Canadian Provinces**

# Waterfowl

**A**FTER A DUCK HUNT last fall, a few of us were sitting around a campfire and I was asked a question, "Jim, why do you support Ducks Unlimited with your time and money when there are so many other worthwhile projects that need attention." My answer was short and simple, "All my life I have had the privilege of hunting and enjoying nature; I want my son to have the same opportunity in the future." What sportsman, knowing the thrill of a day on the marshes, far from the strain of office duties and crowded cities, doesn't want to preserve this wonderful heritage, and if possible improve it, so that he may pass it on to his children and his children's children.

So many of our country's natural resources and animal life through misuse, carelessness, and lack of foresight have been destroyed, or become extinct, as evidenced by the shortage of pure drinking water in some parts of the country, and extinction of many of our birds and animals. We have come to realize that to protect our tomorrow, safeguards must be put into effect today.

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. is the duck hunter's answer to the decrease in the duck population that was first noted in 1929 by a group of sportsmen and conservationists that banded together to form a group called "More Game Birds in America."

After a few years of study, their findings were: (1) At least 65% of our waterfowl population originated in the three Western Canadian Provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. (2) Many potholes and lakes where ducks bred and nested had been destroyed by drought and ill-advised agricultural developments. (3) If our migratory birds were to survive, duck and geese producing areas in those Provinces must be restored and developed. Ducks Unlimited was organized in 1937 to carry out these findings.

Ducks Unlimited is, in reality, two organizations—Ducks Unlimited Inc., the United States organization incorporated in the District of Columbia, as a non-profit, non-political membership organization which is dedicated solely for the conservation of waterfowl and the preservation of the heritage of wildfowling for the future. Ducks Unlimited



Typical migration scenes in the prairie region of Canada. At left, Mallards and Whistling Swans at DU's Goodman Project in southern Manitoba during the 1965 fall migration. Cooperative efforts by Ducks Unlimited members in Canada and the United States, since 1937, have insured the keeping of thrilling mass migration sights shown in photo at right.



Ducks Unlimited Photos

# Guardians

By JAMES R. STOCKTON, Jr.

(Canada) is a Canadian Corporation charged with the rehabilitation and development of the breeding grounds, formed to dispense the funds at the local level. The United States Government recognizing the fact that Federal Funds could not be spent for waterfowl conservation outside the nation's border, though such conservation primarily benefited American sportsmen, granted tax exemption for contributions to DU, to provide funds to rehabilitate the immense wildlife breeding areas in Canada.

Since its beginning Ducks Unlimited has raised more than 12,000,000 in the United States and minor funds in Canada. However, the land on which DU (Canada) maintains its project represents a far greater contribution than money. Eighty per cent of the money raised goes straight to where it can do the most good, the breeding grounds.

In twenty-eight years, Ducks Unlimited has established and maintained a record of accomplishments of which it and its members are rightly proud. Ducks Unlimited, Inc. has built more than

450 projects, with more than 1,000 dams and other water control structures which have established about 4,000 miles of shoreline nesting area. Hundreds of miles of fire-guards and barbed wire fences have been erected to protect nesting areas. Crows, magpies, and other predator-killers of young ducklings have been destroyed. More than 125,000 ducks and geese have been banded to assist in migration studies of waterfowl. Thousands of aquatic plants have been established to provide food for wildfowl on more than 900,000 acres of water managed and maintained by Ducks Unlimited, Inc. in the prairie provinces.

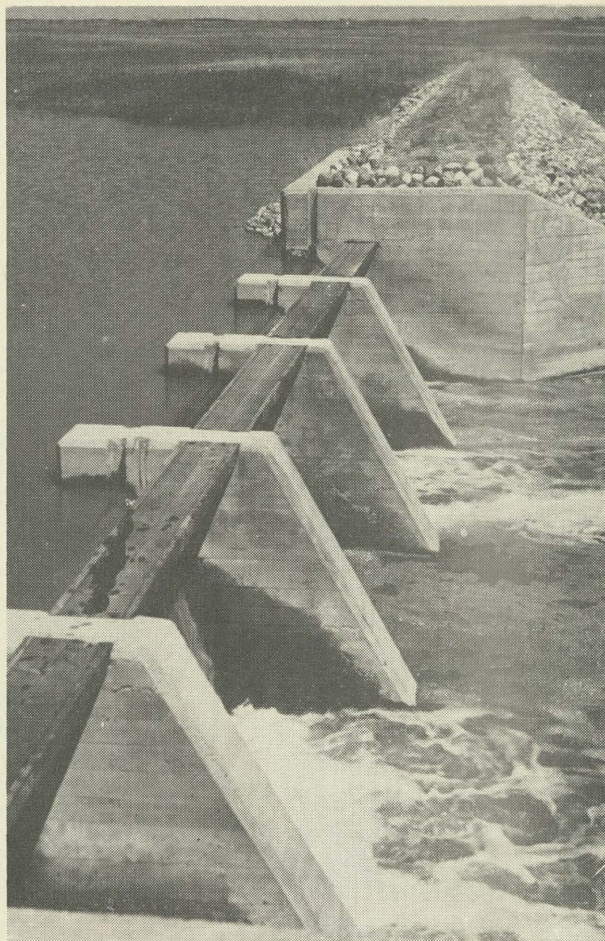
In 1964 alone Ducks Unlimited completed 27 waterfowl projects in Canada. The projects consisted of over 21,000 acres of revitalized marsh area suitable for waterfowl. One of the largest developments is Pelican Lake, a waterfowl project with a special attraction for Canada geese. Pelican Lake rates as one of the most highly regarded waterfowl areas in the province. The only disadvantage was a

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Successful hatches of eggs, raising of broods, and the future of waterfowl hunting depend mainly on the water supply over the breeding grounds. An important task of Ducks Unlimited is protection of nesting waterfowl from drought. Above, canvasback nest and eggs. At right, Ducks Unlimited dam on the Monterey (Antelope Lake) development, near Hanna, Alberta, a typical prairie water control structure.



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frequent lack of water depth. In a wet year, the lake's entire 5,000 acres was flooded and this contributed much to waterfowl habitat. In a dry year, or after a series of same, Pelican was likely to go dry. Ducks Unlimited tackled the problem by building a 2,840 foot dam across the western thousand acres of the lake to insure a constant water level. The downstream area was developed by building a series of some five and one-half miles of ditches and dugouts which will be kept alive with water released from the main reservoir. This could develop into one of the greatest producing areas; certainly, time will tell.

These excellent accomplishments of Ducks Unlimited, are, to a large extent, due to the fact that its governing body is elected. Its National trustees, which include many of the Nation's leading industrialists and professional men, and its State Chairmen, who are recognized leaders in conservation and sportsmen's circles in their states are all duck hunters not only vitally interested in their sport but actively engaged in directing and supporting it. They meet annually together and serve without remuneration. The National Headquarters of Ducks Unlimited, Inc. is located in Chicago, Illinois and run by the Executive Director, Mr. Dale E. White-sell and a staff of three other men.

Ducks Unlimited continually requires support from throughout the state, to insure a wonderful heritage. Contributions should be sent to Mr. J. R. Stockton, Jr., State Chairman, 100 West Bay Street, Jacksonville, Florida.

In the State of Florida, Ducks Unlimited is headed up by Captain Ernie Wade, a noted sportsman, as Vice Chairman; the State Treasurer, James B. Lumpkin, President of the State Bank of Jacksonville, Florida, and myself. We are fortunate in having DU Chapters in various other communities in the state, Vince Barber in Cocoa, Dick Cheeves in Fort Myers, Gerald P. Brocato in Pensacola, and Dr. O. E. Frye, Jr., in Tallahassee.

We are gradually expanding our program so that we may increase our contributions to DU. It is interesting to note that last year, there were over 1,565,860 duck stamps sold in the United States—26,029 of these were sold in Florida. The membership of DU stands at 30,000. These 30,000 members deserve more than a word of praise from all of us. They are contributing through DU to preserve their sport at its very source; namely, the breeding grounds in Canada. Every sportsman who goes duck hunting this fall shares a personal responsibility in helping to conserve our waterfowl.

All of us have heard the expression, "Everyone talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it." The same is certainly true for ducks. We all complain about the small bag limit and the few ducks we see when we go hunting, and then neglect to act. The ducks need your help, and now is the time for action! ●



# Florida's Game Bird Research Program

By W. B. COPELAND, Chairman  
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission



Photo By Gene Smith

Although past attempts at stocking Chinese ringneck pheasant were unsuccessful, the new Iranian pheasant management program appears to be off to a good start.

HUNTERS IN THE Northeast and Northwest Regions are again reminded to hold their fire when an *expected* covey of quail suddenly turns out to be pheasant. The pheasant hunting season in the two north Florida districts was closed at a recent meeting of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

The closing of the pheasant season is to provide an added measure of protection for the imported Iranian pheasants released at selected sites in the two regions. The release of the pheasant is an effort on the part of the Commission to provide a new and exciting game bird for Florida sportsmen.

The closing of the pheasant season does not apply to licensed shooting preserves, and preserve owners may continue to conduct pheasant shoots with the Chinese ringneck pheasant. Ordinarily, Florida does not have pheasant hunting other than on shooting preserves, however, there is an open season which coincides with the quail season in which hunters may bring to bag any pheasant that might escape or be released by shooting preserves.

Although many attempts at stocking Chinese ringneck pheasant in the South have proven unsuccessful, the experimental stocking of the Iranian pheasant appears to be off to a good start. At the present, the program is in the experimental stage and the released birds are being closely watched for signs of survival and reproduction. If the birds are successful in reproduction the stocking program will be accelerated.

The program is under close supervision of Commission Wildlife Biologists and breeding birds are not available to sportsmen. Until this program has

proven successful we do not want the sportsmen to become too involved with this import for several reasons. First, there is the biological danger that someone might accidentally cross the Iranian pheasant with the Chinese pheasant and while both birds are almost identical in appearance, such a cross may endanger the entire population of Iranian pheasant. Second, we do not want the sportsman to invest his money in a program that is still experimental and not proven. This sort of thing has happened before, such as the boom for stocking the coturnix quail, which did not prove to be a success.

Pheasants are farm-country birds that are seldom found far from corn or grain fields, similar to the type habitat selected for the stocking program in North Florida. The experimental stocking program thus far has amounted to a total of 703 pheasants being released in the following counties: Calhoun, Jackson, Washington, Holmes, Walton, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Gadsden and Suwannee. Releases prior to this summer were made in Holmes and Jackson Counties and the results from these earlier stockings has indicated both survival and wild reproduction.

While the pheasant hunting season is closed in the North Florida districts and hunters may not shoot pheasants found in the wilds, the Commission is still interested in any and all reports of wild pheasant being sighted by sportsmen.

Even if the released birds do survive and reproduce in the wild there is no positive assurance that the species will continue to multiply, or that it will be a satisfactory game bird with adequate sporting quality. Until all questions are answered the Iranian pheasant will remain an experiment. ●



Commercial hunting preserves offer Florida hunters the only ringneck pheasant hunting in the Sunshine State.

# Florida's Hunting Preserves

By JIM FLOYD

**T**OO BUSY TO GO hunting! This is no excuse, not with the present day standard of commercial hunting preserves. You don't like hunting preserves because they are too expensive and you say that hunting preserves are for shooting and not for hunting! Well maybe you haven't visited one to observe the hunting conditions at these Florida commercial hunting resorts.

The population boom, coupled with the increased land scarcity for public hunting, has created a new interest and demand for shooting resorts. At one time a private shooting preserve was somewhat of an exclusive, and more often than not, expensive hunting club. With the birth and creation of the commercial shooting preserves more and more such establishments are becoming attractive to the middle-income hunter.

The statement that "shooting preserves are for shooting, not hunting" depends on a point of view and the hunting resort itself. Some preserve managers employ a great deal of imagination in creating conditions that might be encountered during a bona fide hunting trip. Others who seem to think that "meat in the pot" is the primary objective of preserve hunters and made little effort to conceal the fact that the birds were pen raised, did not remain in business very long. The hunter who is willing to shop around can find a hunting preserve that will meet his requirements. He can find birds as wild as he likes and can work as hard for his game as he wants.

The hunting preserve can provide a comfortable clubhouse, good cover at any season, guides, dogs, instructions and even someone to dress and pack



the successful hunter's game at the end of the day. Many of the Florida hunting preserves provide outstanding dove hunting in addition to pen raised game birds. It's a simple case of the preserve operator allowing his customers to hunt the dove over the fields of his preserve or sometimes leasing the hunting rights on fields of nearby farms to accommodate his dove hunting customers.

The hunting preserves are ideal for the elderly hunter who no longer wants to rough it in pursuit of game. They are ideal for the young hunter and the hunter who is teaching a youngster the art of sportsmanship and scatter gun swinging. It is the mecca for women hunters, as there is no lack of action on a good preserve.

Some of Florida's commercial hunting preserves afford excellent opportunities for fishing as well as hunting. Several are located near outstanding coastal fishing areas and facilities are available for charter boats and fishing guides. Others maintain their own private lake which are stocked with bass and panfish.

Almost all of Florida's hunting preserves provide dogs, guides, guns and ammunition, hunting vehicles and hunting licenses. The dogs are well trained and steady to wing and shot. They may not provide the flash and style of a big running field trial dog but they are not required to range as far in search of game as game is always plentiful on a preserve.

Most hunting preserves will have guns and shells available for the sportsman that happens to forget his gun or runs out of shells. The preserve operators will usually recommend a specific load for various game. The hunting vehicles are comfortable and



adapted for the hunting terrain and some of the vehicles maintain radio communication with the hunting lodge as an added accommodation to the hunter.

There is even a special hunting license for the sportsman that hunts only on the preserves. The Series-H hunting license is valid on any commercial preserve and it is unique in that the selling price is the same for resident and non-resident alike. The Series-H hunting license which cost \$5.50, is good only on shooting preserves and not recognized on lands other than the preserves. Of course, the regular hunting license is honored on shooting preserves and the licensed hunter need not purchase a special license just to hunt on a hunting preserve.

While there are as many pros as there are cons in relation to hunting preserves it is a pretty well established fact that shooting preserves are here to stay and whether you like preserve hunting or not, you must appreciate the pleasure they give a good percentage of sportsmen each year.

## FLORIDA

1965-1966

# HUNTING CALENDAR

- November 13 Deer, bear, turkey, squirrel and quail season opens in First, Second, Fourth and Fifth Conservation Districts. Woodcock and snipe season opens state-wide.
- November 19 Marsh hen season closes.
- November 20 Deer, bear, turkey, squirrel and quail season opens in Third Conservation District. Second phase dove season opens.
- November 24 First phase duck, goose and coot hunting opens state-wide at 12:00 Noon.
- December 5 Second phase dove season closes. Special archery hunt in Citrus Wildlife Management Area closes.
- December 6 First phase duck, goose and coot season closes.
- December 10 First special three day gun hunt in Citrus Wildlife Management Area opens.
- December 18 Third phase dove season and second phase duck, goose and coot season opens.
- December 31 Second special three day gun hunt in Citrus Wildlife Management Area opens.
- January 1 Snipe and woodcock season closes.
- January 2 Deer and bear season closes in First, Second, Fourth and Fifth Conservation Districts. Turkey season closes in First, Second and Fifth Conservation Districts.
- January 3 Third phase dove season closes.
- January 7 Special three day wild hog hunt in Fisheating Creek.
- January 8 Wildlife Management Areas open. Special week-end quail hunts in Citrus Wildlife Management Area opens.
- January 9 Duck, goose and coot season closes.
- January 16 Deer, bear and turkey season closes in Third Conservation District.
- January 22 Special week-end archery hunts for wild hogs in Guano River Wildlife Management Area opens.
- January 23 Turkey season in Fourth Conservation District closes.
- January 30 Special week-end quail hunts in Citrus Wildlife Management Area closes.
- February 20 Special week-end archery hunts in Guano River Wildlife Management Area closes.

El-Rancho Hunting & Fishing  
Rex T. Yates  
Chipley, Florida

Cook's Preserve  
1134 Short Street  
Ft. Myers, Florida

Fort Drum Hunting Preserve  
2905 North Andrews Avenue  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

River Bend Hunting Preserve  
Ruskin  
Florida

Bird Nuts, Inc.  
Box 282  
Leesburg, Florida

Riverside Villas Hunting  
P. O. Box 8  
Homosassa Springs, Florida

Everglades Hunt Club  
Rt. 1, Box 675  
Pompano Beach, Florida

Bonnette Hunting Preserve  
5309 Hood Road  
Lake Park, Florida

Saran Ranch Shooting Preserve  
P. O. Box 3386  
Tampa, Florida

Ponte Vedra Preserve  
c/o Ponte Vedra Club  
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

Lehigh Acres Hunting Preserve  
Lehigh Acres  
Florida

Hatchett Creek Hunting Preserve  
P. O. Box 364, Rt. 2  
Gainesville, Florida

Reedy Creek Hunting Preserve  
1004 Metcalf Building  
Orlando, Florida

P. K. Ranch  
Rt. 3, Box 445  
Brooksville, Florida

Madison Hunting Club  
P. O. Box 243  
Madison, Florida

Dessie Smith's  
Box 74  
Inglis, Florida

	Quail	Pheasant	Ducks	Chucker	Turkey	Fishing	Dogs	Guides	Guns-Ammo	Licenses	Sneet-Trip	Overnight	Accommodations	Reservations	Required
El-Rancho Hunting & Fishing	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Cook's Preserve	X	X						X	X	X					X
Fort Drum Hunting Preserve	X				X			X	X	X	X	X			X
River Bend Hunting Preserve	X	X		X				X	X	X	X	X			X
Bird Nuts, Inc.	X	X		X				X	X	X	X				X
Riverside Villas Hunting	X	X		X				X	X	X	X		X	X	
Everglades Hunt Club	X	X			X			X	X	X	X	X			X
Bonnette Hunting Preserve	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X			X
Saran Ranch Shooting Preserve	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X			X
Ponte Vedra Preserve	X				X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Lehigh Acres Hunting Preserve	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Hatchett Creek Hunting Preserve	X	X						X	X	X	X				X
Reedy Creek Hunting Preserve	X														
P. K. Ranch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Madison Hunting Club	X							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Dessie Smith's	X				X	X	X	X					X	X	



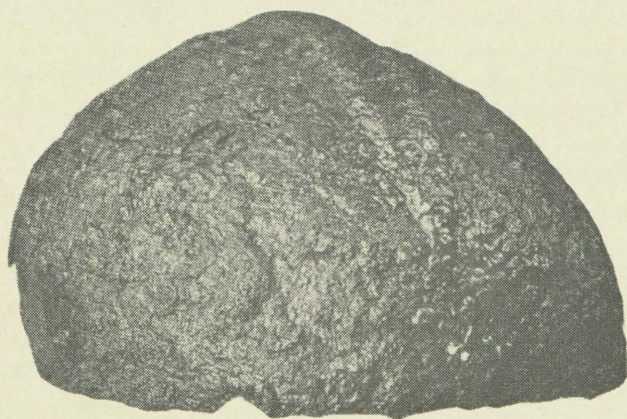
# Is There Spanish Armor In Florida?

By STANLEY J. OLSEN

Florida Geological Survey

**A**LTHOUGH MANY Spanish exploring expeditions crossed Florida from the early 1500's until the close of the seventeenth century, very little in the way of armament has been recovered that can be attributed to these early explorers.

Perhaps the most notable discovery of this kind was made a few years ago in the coastal sand dunes of west Florida. A nearly complete armored vest or brigandine was recovered from a blow-out in the dry sand near Grayson Beach. This Spanish garment was originally made of soft leather or



Spanish archer's salade (steel skull cap) c1490-1510.  
Taken from an excavation near Santa Fe, New Mexico.



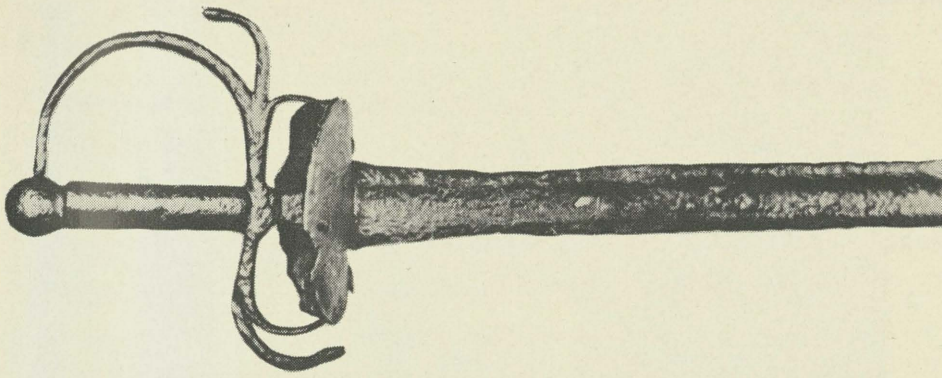
Illustrations of the forms of arms and armor referred to in the manifests and inventories of the Onate Expedition, 1597-1598. Drawing by H. Charles McBarron, Jr.

cloth, bearing iron plates that were held to the fabric by brass rivets. When it was found only the metal part had survived the ravages of time but there were visible cloth impressions on the surface of the oxidized iron plates.

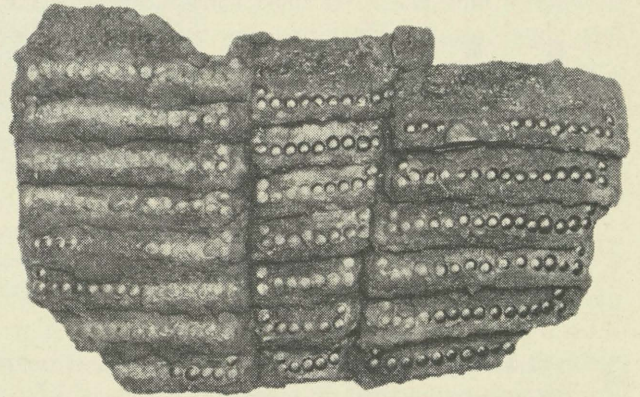
The Spanish explorer, Diego Pena, mentions in his journal of 1716 an accident that took place while crossing the Aucilla River. He writes, "The 2nd day I left said place and went to the Rio De Asile. I found it so swollen that the beasts were obliged to swim the flood. It was very laborious to open a road here. In this river my horse was drowned, and I narrowly escaped, because in leading it into the river by the halter, the current caught us and forced us down on a tree, toppled by the weather, which had fallen in midstream in the branches of which I could not avoid entanglement."

One cannot help speculating as to the final resting place of Diego Pena's horse and harness trappings. It is well within the realm of possibility that the bones of this steed along with the surviving metal harness hardware are at this time reposing in one of the limestone holes or fissures in the bottom of the Aucilla River. If this be true, it may yet be discovered and brought to light by a skin or scuba diver.





At left, a swept-hilt rapier c1600, from Jamestown excavation. Photo below shows a fragment of Spanish brigandine (armored vest) c1530, from site on Grayson Beach, Panama City, Fla. Fragments of this armor are in the collections of the Anthropology Department of F.S.U.



One explanation that seems to satisfy most armor experts, as to the lack of recovered Spanish armor from Florida, is that there may have been actually very little of it used in Florida by the explorers. Several Spanish journals mention the use of cloth or quilted armor in preference to the heavy metal armor that was worn by the Spaniards in the cooler parts of the world. This padded type of armor would of course deteriorate in a short time in Florida's humid climate, leaving nothing for today's historian to find. However, a suit of metal armor was recovered in the late 1800's by Captain John G. Bourke who was on Gen. Crook's staff while stationed at Fort Grant in Arizona during the Apache Indian campaign. Bourke had such a suit of armor as a room decoration in the officer's quarters at Fort Grant.

In his account, Capt. Bourke states, "of that suit of armor I should like to say a word: it was found by Surgeon Steyer, of the army, enclosing the bones of a man, in the arid country between the waters of the Rio Grande and the Pecos. My personal belief is that it belonged to the expedition of Don Antonio Espejo, or that of Don Juan de Oñate, both of whom came into New Mexico about the same date—1581-1592—and travelled down the Concho to its confluence with the Rio Grande, which would have been just on the line where the skelton in armor was discovered. But, be that as it may be, the suit of armor—breast plate and back plate, gorget and helmet—nicely painted and varnished, and with every tiny brass button duly cleaned and polished with acid and ashes, added not a little to the looks of a den which without them would have been much more dismal."

I spent quite a few years tracking Crook's collection of Indian artifacts and related objects but Bourke's suit of armor was not among them.

An Indian in New Mexico, plowing his garden patch a few years ago, turned up a Spanish archer's steel skull cap or "salade." This historically important helmet is now in the Santa Fe museum.

It is perhaps most important to point out that

in case of the archer's helmet and with the body armor from west Florida that very little in the way of recognizable metal was visible. Heavy rust or oxidation covered both objects. Chain mail reverts to a mass of rust and only when treated in a laboratory can it be recognized in its original form. Cross-bow bolts or arrows have very little "character" even when new. They are merely pointed pieces of metal with a socket at the blunt end. All of this means that there are perhaps more Spanish military items in Florida than is generally supposed but that they go unnoticed by most outdoorsmen who might chance upon them.

Hunters and fishermen are in a position to discover such historically important items if they are aware to what to look for. Surely many hunters frequent these likely areas if we are to judge by the number of shotgun shell casings that can be found inside the Spanish earthworks in Clay County or on the tidal beaches of Fort St. Marks, to name but two.

The illustrations that accompany this brief article depict some of the better preserved metal objects that have been found in early historical sites in this country and I feel confident that many such specimens await discovery in Florida, by either professional archaeologists or by observant sportsmen.

If any such questionable articles are discovered, the finder may contact the State Archaeologist at the Division of Geology, of the Florida Board of Conservation, in the Herman Gunter Building in Tallahassee. The archaeologist can furnish information as to whether or not the finder has a bit of Spanish armor or just a piece of scrap metal. ●



underwater  
hunting  
for

# Florida Lobster



Miami fishing expert Vic Dunaway is also quite adept at getting Florida lobster, diving in water depths of three to four feet in the Keys. These tasty spinys are high rated delicacies among Florida's sea-food gourmets.

**B**ROILED Florida lobster is a tasty dish no matter how or where you get it, but just like fish, it tastes best when you pluck it personally from the water.

In extreme South Florida and the Keys, skindiving for lobster (also called crawfish) is top sport in late summer and early fall. Lobsters have been plentiful this season, and they can easily be found at any depth to suit individual diving talent—from three or four feet right on out to the deep reefs.

Equipment is minimal—a diving mask, swim fins and a pair of cotton gloves. Add a snorkel if you like.

State law requires that divers use only their hands to take lobster. Spears, hooks and grabbing devices are prohibited.

Unlike his northern cousin, the Florida lobster has no claws. He is protected by a spiny shell, plus the ability to sneak away back in a rocky crevice. Lobsters can be safely handled with gloves.

Good lobstering territory in shallow water is convenient to every fishing camp and boat rental dock in the Florida Keys. In a lot of places, divers work close to the Overseas Highway, and with no boat needed.

Lobster territory can easily be pointed out by motel owners, camp operators and other local folks who cater to anglers and skindivers.

The few necessary tricks can be learned quickly. First, remember that lobsters, during daylight, are always hidden—in holes, under rocks or logs or obstructions of all sorts.

Sometimes the lobster sits on his front porch in easy sight. More often, however, you'll have to spot him by the tell-tale points of his long antennae protruding from his lair. Most divers simply snorkel over the surface until they spot a lobster or the whips. Often they are found in considerable clusters.

The challenge comes when you try to get him out. Newcomers

grab for the antennae. They break off. You must work for a grip on the hard forward body shell or thorax. A bit of twisting and a heavy pull generally does the job.

There are hazards to be reckoned with, but none should cause serious concern to the cautious and observant diver. One of the most common is the sea urchin—a stationery critter that looks like a big black pincushion, and feels like one too, if you're careless enough to brush against it.

Some of the cavernous coral openings might also harbor dangerous moray eels. Simply avoid the large holes and seek your lobsters in their smaller hiding places where there is no room for other and unwanted tenants.

Moray eels, incidentally, will not venture out of hiding to attack, although they might nip at an intruding hand inside their own domain.

Shallow-water skindiving for Florida lobster is marvelous recreation which can be enjoyed by any capable swimmer. Moreover, it takes only a few lobsters to make a delicious family meal.

Be sure to check locally for legal size limit and the few other regulations. ●



**TIPPER FLINTLOCK'S**  
Tips on Shooting Safety

**KEEP  
YOUR GUN  
UNLOADED  
WHEN  
NOT IN USE**

BE A SAFE SHOOTER

**THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION**



# MUZZLE

# FLASHES



By EDMUND McLAURIN

Scope sights can be switched to other rifles with acceptable bases without effect to setting

EFFECTIVE ADVERTISING is an essential segment of American business, whatever the salable commodity. The late Baron Collier, who made a fortune from street car placard advertising, sold even more advertising by calling prospective clients' attention to the fact that consumers (dependent on public transportation) could not escape Collier-developed advertising.

Unfortunately, many forms of modern advertising include exaggerated claims, if not outright lies. Drive along any major Florida highway and you will surely eventually encounter blatant advertising for "the world's best apple pie," "world's largest hot dog," "world's finest beach," etc. Often rival products make identical advertising claims; obviously only *one* can be entitled to make a stated claim, and then perhaps with question, for "world's best" is a term that takes in a lot of territory! Only after long, impartial research and comparison, acknowledged public opinion and international recognition can the description be honestly used.

Although competing against each other (in a specialized market) for the sportsman's favor, there is surprisingly little exaggerated advertising being done by established names like Winchester, Remington, Savage, Mossberg, Colt, Smith & Wesson, High Standard, Browning and other well known brands in the firearms' manufacturing field, and by reputable concerns marketing such accessories as sights, adjustable shotgun chokes and related items. Most are prepared to back their claims.

For months on end I read the scope sight advertisements of Bausch & Lomb in *THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN* with tongue in cheek. While I have long held high esteem for the quality and workmanship of Bausch & Lomb products, and know that good quality scope sights can be amazingly rugged instruments, still, I doubted if *any* make of scope sight could withstand ALL the punishment tests described in the B&L advertisements.

According to the full-page ads, you can fully immerse a B&L scope without moisture entry, slam the scope tube against a nail protruding from a board, give it sidewise taps with a hammer, drop it, subject the entire scope to either sub-zero temperature or oven-heated extreme, scrape the exterior finish with a hunting knife without marring

it, and switch scope sight from one rifle to another without affecting the established "zero" sight setting and without necessity of a check-up firing session.

The claims seemed too much to expect, even of a known quality line. I quietly started my own investigation and tests. The results opened my eyes and enriched my basic technical knowledge.

First, I queried every B&L scope sight user I could find. To a man, they expressed satisfaction, ranging from mild endorsement to almost contagious enthusiasm. There were no complaints.

The torture tests were undertaken somewhat reluctantly; it seemed a shame to ruin an obviously good-looking piece of shooting equipment. The anxiety was needless.

A B&L 2½X Baltur A model hunting scope, used in the tests, withstood deliberate dropping six times. Completely submersed in a tank of water and left for three hours, the same instrument came out with no sign of leak or internal moisture. Dried thoroughly on external surfaces, the sight quickly settled down to serious business when put on a rifle and shot from bench rest.

Next torture test consisted of the sub-zero and high temperature phases. In the first, the scope was taken to a commercial food freezer and left two days until it was frosted and so cold it could not be handled without gloves. Thawed out, dried and put back on the hunting rifle used in the tests, it again performed well.

I skipped the oven bake test, for no other reason than I did not know just how much oven heat constituted reasonable application to fine optical glass. However, I did put the scope out in the hot Florida sun, where a thermometer alongside registered high, and the scope tube became quite warm. Again, the scope performed well without any noticeable change of zero.

The test of giving the scope tube repeatedly jarring taps with a hammer was on par with the dropping test, only in this instance the punishment was applied to the side of the mounted, ready-to-use scope . . . No bad effects!

The scrape test was undertaken gingerly. After already passing more severe tests, it seemed foolish

*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from preceding page)

to mar an attractive exterior by scratching the beautiful black finish with the sharp edge of a hunting knife. First scrapes, admittedly, were light. The knife edge seemed to merely slide along the scope tube. No visible scratches! Harder pressure, yet still the same result. I was satisfied. (I later learned that the finish put on B&L scopes is aluminum oxide, the same material from which grindstones are made.)

The switch test—changing the hunting scope from one rifle model to another without affecting established correct sight setting of each—was more involved. Besides two different model hunting rifles, separate mounts were needed for each rifle model, and the scope had to be mounted and sighted-in for each rifle before being interchanged for performance testing. This took time . . . . Again, results were satisfactory.

Besides dependability when put into service, a scope sight must have high optical qualities. To perform well under a variety of light conditions, it must possess good image brightness and definition (which includes light transmission), have resolving power, give desired magnification, provide maximum field of view, give adequate eye relief (important where the scope is used for snap-shooting at targets, and on rifles of heavy recoil) and be free of objectionable parallax. Distortions or aberrations—like chromatic and spherical aberration, coma, curvature of field and astigmatism—should not exist in the scope's optical system. Likewise, a top quality scope should have anti-reflection magnesium fluoride coating on interior as well as exterior surfaces, for best results.

To assemble an optically perfect, workable, lens system in a housing that is 100% waterproof, fog-proof, dustproof and immune to common field mishaps that can befall a hard-used hunting scope, isn't easy to do. Many scope manufacturers cannot do it. Obviously, Bausch & Lomb can.

While I considered the variously described tests

necessary to personal satisfaction, I could have first stopped to reflect on the fact that Bausch & Lomb has long produced practically all types of optical equipment, including many hundreds of specialized items for scientific, industrial and military use, and that before it started producing its own lines, B&L designed and manufactured the optical systems for some of the best known makes of scope sights.

As already stated, the tested B&L hunting scope was one of 2½X, known to the trade as the Balvar A. However, B&L makes other hunting scope sights, both fixed and variable powers. The Balvar 4 is a fixed four power model; the Balvar 5 gives shooter choice of 2½-5X; the more versatile variable-power Balvar 8A, a selection of power from 2½-8X. The last is a varmint and long range, rest-shooting, hunting scope.

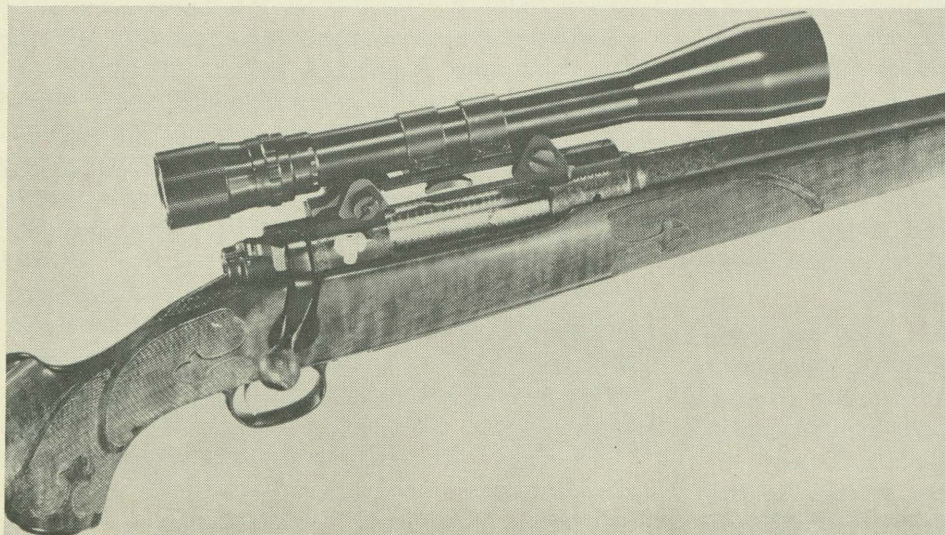
For big game hunting, selection of scope power should be based largely on the average distance over which hunted game can be expected to be shot. (Keep in mind that the higher the scope sight's magnification, the narrower will be the useful field of view through which game can be seen and followed.)

The brush country hunter, usually shooting at moving targets at close range, can very beneficially use a scope sight of 2½ power, or even a 4X for those few targets that obligingly stand still long enough for a sure shot to be made.

For open country shooting, the 4X and the variable powers are to be preferred.

Reticule preferences vary geographically. The standard crosshair reticule is, by far, the most popular world-wide. The dot reticule also has universal use but percentage of users is low. In the eastern section of the United States, the post and single horizontal crosswire combination reticule is very popular. The factor that concerns you is selection of the type reticule you can see best—and *instantly*, the moment your rifle comes to shoulder.

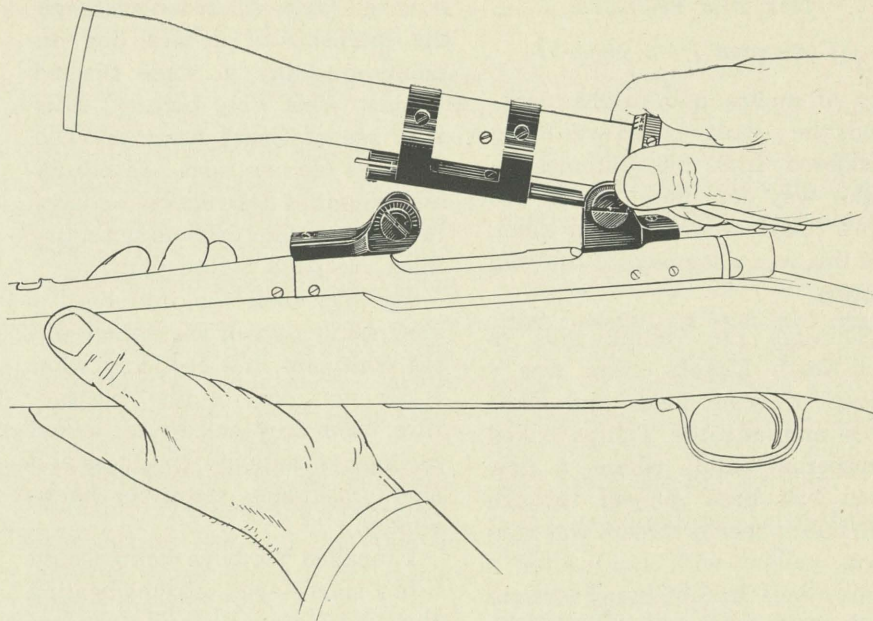
No scope sight can be any better than its mount.



Superb optical performance and extreme ruggedness are incorporated qualities of Bausch & Lomb hunting scope sights, available in both fixed and variable powers. Model at left received severe testing.



Bausch & Lomb hunting scope sight models lock into V-block, trough-like bases in which elevation and windage adjustments are made. A scope can be switched to any other rifle having acceptable bases, and will not affect the sight setting.



The B&L designed mount is simple and very strong, and if a separate mount is put on each rifle and zeroed for that particular rifle, the B&L hunting scope can thereafter be switched from one rifle to another, without changing established zero or any resighting. This is because all windage and elevation adjustments are made in the mount itself.

The scope is slipped into two V-block mounts and is held in place with a clamp-ring assembly. In brief, the scope tube is held in the bottom of a trough; no matter how often the scope is removed from its V-blocks, the tube *has* to return to where it was before.

This easy, switch-about feature constitutes economy where a number of hunting rifles are owned; you need purchase only one scope sight and the necessary V-block mounts for individual rifles.

Mounts can be had for the more popular rifle models, and generally utilize factory-provided scope sight base screw holes. Some of the older rifle models, like the U. S. Enfield, Remington 30, pre-war Winchester models 70 and 54 and Mauser 98 versions, usually require drilling and tapping for scope sight installation.

Successful use of a scope sight demands a certain amount of technical study, an understanding of working principle and application of acquired knowledge. You cannot merely slap mounts and new hunting scope on a rifle and expect perfect performance. Bases have to be properly mounted, the scope tube must be properly positioned for correct eye relief and straightness of reticule, and the scope must be carefully focused for the individual user's eyesight. Finally, the scope must be sighted-in or zeroed for the most practical point-blank range, bullet ballistics and field trajectory considered . . . . All these conditions of use take time to develop to perfection.

However, once practical approach and under-

standing are achieved, benefits accrue rapidly . . . . When properly mounted on rifle and adjusted so that the shooter's aiming eye instantly finds the center of the scope and clear focus when rifle is shouldered, the scope sight gives faster aim than any type of metallic sight. Aiming reticule of the scope is in the same optical plane as the image of the target, which you only have to bring into the scope's field of view for final, precise aim. Scope magnification makes the target appear closer and in more detail, another aid to precise aiming. With a scope you can also see better under poor light conditions existing at dawn and dusk. Because a mounted hunting scope has a higher line of sight than metallic sight combinations, the angle of bullet trajectory is changed advantageously; mid-range trajectory curve height is reduced with the result that there is less "high" or "low" bullet impact error on firing over distances close to that for which the rifle is sighted-in. Following are a few recommended "zero" distances, and effective range performance brackets, for popular hunting cartridges used with a scope sight:

Cartridge	Recommended "Zero" Distance in Yards	Maximum Point-blank Range Effectiveness	Height of Bullet Impact Center of Target at 50 Yards —In Inches
.243 Winchester, 100 gr.	252 Yards	294 Yards	1.0
.270 Winchester, 130 gr.	256 "	299 "	1.0
.280 Remington, 150 gr.	241 "	282 "	1.1
.30-06 Springfield, 180 gr.	214 "	249 "	1.3
.308 Winchester, 180 gr.	218 "	256 "	1.3
.35 Remington, 200 gr.	175 "	204 "	1.8

The above listings take maximum advantage of bullet trajectory of given bullet load in stated caliber.

Match any accurate hunting rifle to most practical bullet weight and style; fit the rifle with a B&L scope of most useful power, sight-in for maximum point-blank range effectiveness, and you can hunt with confidence. ●



## THE BIG PICTURE

(Continued from page 5)

city of ducks; and in the parklands the popular brush was being bulldozed into the potholes to make way for more wheat. No more ducks would nest in them. All this was a segment of the "big picture."

Through the rolling hills of mid-North Dakota there was a sheen of grain fields and short grass and fat cattle. Things looked prosperous. But, where a new road had been gouged through the hills a nearby stream was running yellow with mud after a heavy rain. In fact, many streams looked too thick to drink and too thin to plow.

Then there were the scars of lignite surface mining, and I was told that so far North Dakota had only made a feeble start. There was to be much more savage destruction with the installation of mammoth electrical plants. All this I assumed must be a part of the "big picture."

The building of the Garrison dam on the Missouri had produced a huge lake to stop floods, to generate electrical power, for irrigation and recreation. It was reported that the fishing was fabulous. There were also opinions that the new irrigation program would further destroy waterfowl nesting grounds.

There were signs to explain the wonders of this engineering feat, and the kilowatts it would generate. Tourists were taking pictures of this man-made lake; however, there were no signs to explain that some experts prophesied it would be silted in during the next hundred years. This was part of the "big picture"—this and thousands of dried up potholes. The potholes will no longer rear waterfowl, and many were drained with taxpayer money.

All these things I saw—many little pictures which in composite make a big picture—these, plus hundreds of grim-faced tourists

hunched over their wheels with the intensity of a bird dog on point, speeding to some fancied Utopia. What "big picture" DID they see of Great America? Did they see the contrasts, the beauty and potential destruction, or were they only intent on finding an unfilled campsite before dark?

My trip took me into only a very small part of the nation and the continent, but certainly what I saw was part of the "big picture." The trip ended with mixed feelings, of national greatness and slow insidious resource bankruptcy.

I recalled the boys camp. Could a few starry-eyed citizens beating their brains out to build a camp for under-privileged boys stem the tide of recreational destruction, of dried-up potholes, of streams running thick with mud and pollution, of the Great Missouri dammed up and beginning to choke out its own life with an accumulation of silt? These things I knew from experience could be duplicated in various forms in every part of the nation.

I hope that the boys camp continues and that ten thousand more are started, but can the widow's mite pay the national debt? I hope that more boys get the opportunity to work at honest jobs cleaning up pollution their elders have thrown into the streams; to plant trees to stop the cancer of erosion; to have the privilege to see a deer at the edge of forest in the falling dusk; and to see ducks on a pond and song birds in the backyard.

All and sundry when on a vacation should look beyond today's comforts and anticipated pleasures and develop a true perspective for the "big picture." If it doesn't keep you awake nights, it certainly should. ●

The grizzly bear cub frequently has a white ring or "collar" of hair around its neck during the first year or two of its life. This usually disappears when the bear is about three years old.

## MAKE MINE MIGRATORY

(Continued from page 16)

Are ducks and geese hard to hit? It all depends on who is doing the shooting; generally, it would seem so. The average waterfowler fires eight shells for every bird bagged. Most of the missing is due to over-anxiety—shooting before targets are definitely within sure 40 yard killing range, and wasting ammunition on birds sitting on the water (small targets, at best).

Any scared duck can be a fast flyer, but canvasbacks, teal and redheads can be rightly regarded as the hot-rods of the skyways. They usually hit a fast clip, coming and going.

As shooting range is increased, the need for heavier shot of sustained penetration energy becomes more critical. At 60 yards—a long shot—it takes about five pellets of #4 shot, on the average, for a clean kill on a mallard. Shot sizes 5 or 6 and even 7½ are all right for shooting over close range decoys, but Size No. 4 is usually needed for other forms of duck shooting, and for longer ranges. Sizes 2, 4 and BB are commonly used for geese.

There is variety in choice of waterfowl hunting methods in Florida.

Pass-shooting at waterfowl flying regular routes to and from feeding areas is fairly sedentary, but takes considerable experience to develop the accurate, instinctive shooting needed for results.

Stalking birds feeding or resting on the water—so-called jump or pot-hole shooting after a successful stalk through thick Florida brush and bogs surrounding most remote lakes and ponds—can properly be classified as getting your duck dinner the hard way!

Shooting from a blind over close-set decoys undoubtedly requires the least effort and promises the most.

In building your blind and set-



ting out your decoys, strive for perfection.

Take pains to kill shine on new decoys by rubbing their surfaces with steel wool. If time permits, rig a fishing line (anchored underwater) from one of the decoys to the blind, to give the decoy lifelike motion when birds are seen approaching.

Despite the incongruity, it is a good idea to include a seagull figure somewhere among your set of decoys. For some reason, passing waterfowl are seemingly less suspicious of a set that includes a seagull.

Similarly, oldtimers hold to the theory that duck decoy figures themselves should have an uneven numerical total, the belief being that the unpaired one is an added attraction.

The blind need not be elaborate, but it must be natural-looking and provide sure concealment of hunter and waiting gun. If possible, it should be built to give you a shooting position that puts the wind at your back.

Get well hidden in your blind and make sure that all equipment is also well concealed. Keep quiet and keep still. Talking or restlessness by you or a companion can cause circling waterfowl to depart pronto, especially if the flyers are black ducks!

Duck language contains many meaningful sounds, but the four of greatest importance to the hunter are his faithful imitation of such calls as the *qu-ACK*, *qu-ACK*, *qu-ACK*, *qu-ACK* feed call and the "Come back and join us" invitation—*qu-ACK*, *qu-ACK*, *qu-ACK*, *qu-ACK*, *w-HUTT*, *w-HUTT*, *w-HUTT*, *w-HUTT*. Needless to say, accurate imitation involves plenty of practice before you perform brilliantly in a duck blind. If your duck talk leaves something to be desired, you should go easy on the caller and rely more heavily on the combination of a good decoy set and natural hunting blind. ●

## Schemers Unlimited

# Angling Angles

FISHING IS SERIOUS business. Uninformed persons who feel it's simply a healthful recreation would learn better if they could read the mail of a Florida fishing editor.

"I saw a fellow catching fish and turning them loose," wrote one reader. "Isn't there some kind of a law against that?"

Evidently the writer felt that humanity is engaged in a ceaseless war against fish and that they'll get the upper hand if we don't watch them.

For that matter, fish laws are something of a puzzle to some anglers. In Florida there's a limit of 35 on panfish and the fellow caught with 82 bluegills on his stringers was indignant.

"What else could I do, judge?" he whimpered. "They just kept biting."

Canny advertising people have long known that a sure way of selling a fishing lure is to hint that it's on the verge of illegality. When a real fish hog learns that some device has been ruled illegal in California or Rhode Island, he

starts digging for his billfold. Maybe, he hopes, the Florida lawmakers have just overlooked a real killer.

"How would you recommend that I install an explosive device to a hook?" writes one "sportsman." "I have trouble hooking sheephead and I want a charge that will blow the fish's head off and won't damage the pier."

Always thinking, these fishermen.

"Could I use a wire line and electrocute the fish when they bite?" is another query. "Or would I shock myself?" the scheming angler adds as an afterthought.

"I can't cast very far," worries a lady correspondent. "Could I use one of those line throwing guns like the Coast Guard has and get my bait out past the others?"

For everybody who tries to catch a sailfish on sewing thread there are several who want to hook a crappie on a hawser.

"How should I attach my bait?" inquired a bluegill fisherman. "My line is too big to go through the eye of my hook."

Florida lost one regular winter visitor recently. For years this millionaire industrialist had been catching fish, putting them in barrels and shipping them back to his factory in the North where he gave fish fries for employees. Finally a possession limit was placed on the fish he preferred and such a procedure became illegal.

"If I can't put them in barrels and send them home, I just don't feel I'm accomplishing anything," he complained. So he doesn't come to Florida any more.

Another visitor was worried about the legality of his sawed-off shotgun.

"It's much more practical than a landing net," he confided. ●

## NATURE NOTES

The fisher is the fastest tree-traveling mammal. It can overtake a red squirrel or a marten and can even outrun a snowshoe hare on the ground.

\* \* \*

The pika, a member of the rabbit family, is one of the few mammals rugged enough to spend its entire life in the high, barren mountains of western America.

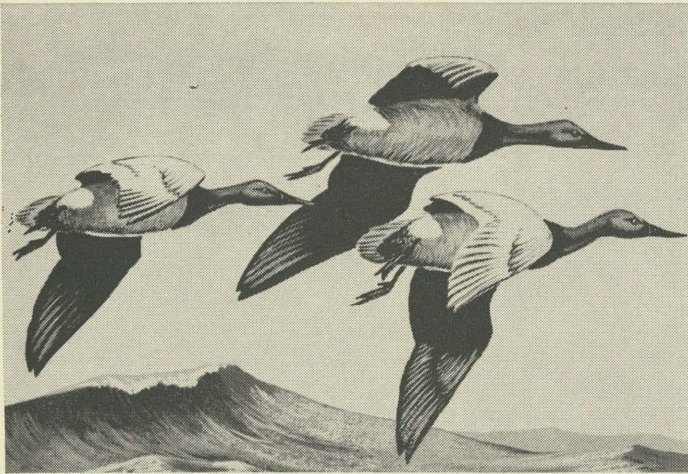
\* \* \*

The barn or screech owl is often called the "feathered cat" because it is a great foe of mice.

\* \* \*

The whale probably is unable to smell and some scientists think it doesn't sleep since it will follow a ship for days at a time.





## WATERFOWL HUNTERS

Make certain you have a 1965-66 Federal Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamp before hunting waterfowl. Available from your local post office at a cost of \$3.00, the "duck" stamp is required of all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older.

Your name must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp before you hunt.

A trio of canvasback drakes, shown at left, is featured on the 1965-66 stamp, from a drawing by Ron Jenkins.

## Florida Migratory Game Bird Regulations 1965-1966

### Waterfowl—Ducks, Geese, Coot

**Seasons:** Two Phase, November 24, 1965 through December 6, 1965  
December 18, 1965 through January 9, 1966

**Shooting Hours:** Nov. 24, First Phase Opening Day, 12-noon to sunset  
From sunrise to sunset all other days

Bag Limits	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Ducks	4 (see notes below)	8
Geese	2	4
Coot	10	20

**The daily bag limit** on ducks other than mergansers may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks; (b) 2 mallards; and (c) 2 canvasbacks.

**The possession limit** on ducks other than mergansers may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks (b) 4 mallards; and (c) 2 canvasbacks.

**The limits on** American, red-breasted, and hooded mergansers, in the aggregate of these species, are 5 daily and 10 in possession, of which not more than 1 daily and 2 in possession may be hooded mergansers.

**South of State Road 50**, duck hunters will be allowed to have 4 Florida ducks in their total bag of 4. North of State Road 50 the Florida Duck is classified along with the mallard and hunters may have no more than 2 in their daily bag.

**In the following** described areas, two scaup ducks may be taken in addition to the daily bag: all open waters of Charlotte Harbor area from the bridge on U. S. Highway 41 to a line running from Boca Grande Pass east through Bokeelia to the mainland; all open waters of the Guano River Wildlife Management Area in St. Johns County; all open waters of Banana River from Banana Creek south to State Road 520; all open waters of Tampa Bay; all open waters of the Indian River from Shiloh south to the bridge on State Road 516 at Melbourne; all open waters of Mosquito Lagoon from Oak Hill to State Road 402.

**LEON COUNTY.** Waterfowl hunting permitted only on opening day, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, November 25 and 26, and December 6. The use of all outboard motors is prohibited on Lake Iamonia, and Lake Jackson, during the open seasons for waterfowl hunting.



### Marsh Hens

(Rails and Gallinules)

Shooting hours, from sunrise to sunset.

Season: September 11 to November 19.

Daily Limit 15; Possession Limit 30.

### Snipe

Shooting hours, from sunrise to sunset.

Season: November 13 to January 1.

Daily Limit 8; Possession Limit 16.

### Woodcock

Shooting hours, from sunrise to sunset.

Season: November 13 to January 1.

Daily Limit 5; Possession Limit 10.

**Mourning Dove** Bag Limits: Daily Limit 12; Possession Limit 24.

Three Phase Season, shooting hours from 12-noon to sunset.

**First Season:** October 2 through November 7.  
Except Alligator Point, Franklin County, Third District, closed.

**Second Season:** November 20 through December 5, statewide.

**Third Season:** December 18 through January 3, statewide.





## FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Only fishing citation applications received within 90 days from date of catch will be honored.

### APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Species \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Tackle \_\_\_\_\_

Bait or Lure Used \_\_\_\_\_

Where Caught \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ County

Date Caught \_\_\_\_\_ Catch Witnessed By \_\_\_\_\_

Registered, Weighed By \_\_\_\_\_ At \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Applicant)

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

#### LARGEMOUTH BASS

.....8 pounds or larger

#### CHAIN PICKEREL

.....4 pounds or larger

#### BLUEGILL (BREAM)

.....1 1/2 pounds or larger

#### SHELLCRACKER

.....2 pounds or larger

#### BLACK CRAPPIE

.....2 pounds or larger

#### RED BREAST

.....1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK





Bahia Honda State Park, on the famous Florida Keys, offers complete boating and camping facilities for the winter vacationer.—FSNB Photo

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